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**BRIGHT IDEAS**

With this month's issue, you'll be able to put the finishing touches to your gift shopping, organise the perfect party menu, and get ideas for your next decorating project!



Hi there!

It's party season! The celebrations are in full swing and everyone is full of seasonal cheer. I love giving gifts, getting together with family and friends, and enjoying the festivities well into the New Year. So, if like me you're hosting a shindig to ring in 2016, you'll love all our ideas for making your home special – we've crammed so many into this issue. Be inspired by cover star **Caroline's house** and style the perfect seasonal room. Try our **drinks station ideas** (p86), **make our fab NYE light** (p75) and if you have guests staying, read our feature on **creating the perfect welcome** (p94). Still got prezzies to buy? Don't panic, flick to page 53 and get inspired – we've got hundreds of gifts to choose from. If you need **fancy gift-wrapping ideas** we've got plenty (p78), and don't forget to download the free printable cracker templates from our blog, along with matching papers, too! Once the party season is over, you can think about a refresh for spring, and this issue's **Style School on painting** (p63) has lots to kick-start your makeovers, while our feature on buying a kitchen in the sale (p100) could save you some money. From the team and me, a very happy New Year!

lizzie

Lizzie Hudson, Acting Editor

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Meet the team

Every issue, we have a little extra help, thanks to our six *Stylists at Home*. Meet them here and find their comments in the magazine...

Marie Burden



ABOUT ME I'm 32 and I live with my husband Chris, 32, and our son Isaac, seven months, in a three-bed, 1940s semi-detached in Oxfordshire.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DECORATING IDEAS FROM? I find ideas in magazines – I probably buy at least four a month. I also get a lot of inspiration from blogs, Pinterest and interiors shops.

Hannah Haworth



ABOUT ME I'm 27 and I live with my husband Andrew, 38, in a two-bed mid-terraced house in Lancashire.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DECORATING IDEAS FROM? My interior design ideas come from all sorts of places, from magazines and Pinterest to boutique shops and restaurants!

Tracey Martin



ABOUT ME I'm 42 and I live with my partner Andrew, and our dog Saffie, in a three-bed, 1970s semi-detached in Liverpool.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DECORATING IDEAS FROM? I would say that my ideas are influenced by *Style at Home*, Instagram, Pinterest and interior-related TV programmes.

Natalie Ellis



ABOUT ME I'm 33 and I live with my partner Ross, 32, and our children Grace, 11, and Ethan, five. We're currently renting while we wait for our house to be built in York.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DECORATING IDEAS FROM? I keep on top of trends by reading interiors magazines, and I love Laura Ashley – it's one of my favourite shops.

Jane Bedford



ABOUT ME I'm 50 and I live with my husband Kenny, 56, and our son Joe, 23, in a three-bed semi-detached in North Yorkshire.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DECORATING IDEAS FROM? Mainly magazines, TV shows and friends. One of my favourite interiors shops is The Range. It's got a huge range of reasonably priced products.

Angela Tones



ABOUT ME I'm 53 and I live with my husband Richard, 64, in a three-bed double-fronted home in Durham. Our two children have flown the nest.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR DECORATING IDEAS FROM? I really like the Joss and Main website – it gives me endless inspiration, but I also get lots of ideas from interiors magazines and Pinterest.

GET IN TOUCH

Have you just finished decorating your home or have you transformed one of your rooms from drab to fab? Email us at styleathome@timeinc.com with some photos and you could be featured in a future issue of *Style at Home*.



Become a Stylist at Home

Sign up to join our *Stylists at Home* club. You'll receive bonus offers and special treats, plus you could appear in a future issue! Email stylistsathome@timeinc.com

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Our pick of your best tweets, snaps and posts from our digital world – join us online today!



#askSAH

Q I recently painted my living room grey, but now it feels too cold. Any ideas on how I can warm it up without having to completely repaint?

LISA SHORE, LEICESTER

The great thing about grey is that it goes with practically every other colour. Depending on the shade you have gone for, you could combine it with a rich orange or deep yellow to instantly add warmth. Keep the walls as they are, but add in accessories, soft furnishings and curtains to lift the look. Check out our feature on page 36, which has three fab ideas!

Got a burning styling question? Tweet it to our editor Lizzie @styleathomemag – she's on hand with all the answers!



Tweets we love

@xxxsamanthaxxx

Buying a home that needs a lot of work. Your mag is giving me plenty of ideas!

@OrrJulia

Loving the latest edition. Can't wait for Christmas now. Thanks for the inspiration.

@manddajaney

Feeling a bit poorly. A cuppa & the Dec issue should do the trick. Best mag ever.

WE'VE GOT MAIL

'My seven-year old-daughter, Leah, and I have been enjoying your magazine since I was given a subscription as a Christmas present. Leah took inspiration from *Style at Home* and decided to upcycle her old drawers, proving that no matter what age you are, you're never too young to start!'

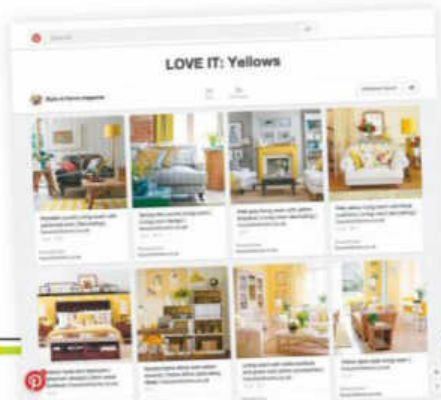
CLARE & LEAH PRITCHARD, MIDLANDS



MOST REPINNED

Check out the *Style at Home* Pinterest page for lots more decorating inspiration and interior ideas. Brighten up your home this winter with our Love it: Yellows board, packed with zingy ideas to add colour.

Follow us at pinterest.com/styleathomemag



This month...

Like us on Facebook and share your tips, makeovers and crafty projects. Here's one of our latest posts – look ahead to spring with our styling ideas. Follow us at facebook.com/styleathomemag



YOU DID IT!

@CASTLE
VIEW
COTTAGE

We love the colour of your revamped desk!



@AMBER
B. HULME
Cute idea!

Share your latest crafty projects with us on instagram.com/styleathomemag using #stylistsakes or #stylistsrevamps



Our top 5... EASY WINTER IDEAS

- 1 Avoid the winter blues by injecting colour into your home with new accessories.
- 2 Brighten a space by hanging wall mirrors and placing reflective decor items to bounce the light.
- 3 Hang thick curtains at large windows to add warmth to the room by blocking chilly draughts from the outside.
- 4 Layer up cushions with throws and blankets – think faux fur and textured wools to up the cosy factor.
- 5 Cover cool tile floors with soft, warm rugs to stop your feet getting too cold.

Join the conversation at facebook.com/styleathomemag and share your styling tips!

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WEEKLY TREAT

Can't wait for the next issue? Sign up for our new weekly email newsletter and have all the latest styling news, decorating ideas, amazing offers and so much more delivered straight to your inbox.

Sign up at housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist and get this week's issue!



Tune in

Watch our fantastic video on how you can give an old plain table lamp a folk-inspired makeover. It'll give your room the perfect hit of colour for winter! Watch it now at housetohome.co.uk/videos



BLOG LOVIN'

This month, we look into what it takes to become an interior designer – we've got one training course we think you'd love!

Check it out now and follow us for plenty of other exciting news, the latest trends, and more styling tips for the home at cushienumber.co.uk





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*Most models.

'tis the season

Add the final touch to Christmas preparations with a festive fragrance from the new collection at Yankee Candle. Choose from four scents: Winter Glow, Bundle Up, Cosy by the Fire and Berry Trifle. Small jar candles, £8.99 each; medium, £18.99; large, £21.99, all Yankee Candle



MUST-HAVE PARTY PIECES

Make sure your bash goes off with a bang with Bubblegum Balloons' festive range in on-trend gold, black and silver. We love helium balloons filled with confetti, £29.95 each, and confetti, £10.95, which looks so glam scattered on a table.



THIS MONTH'S pinboard

Our round-up of what to do, where to go and what to look out for this January

TRY THIS AT HOME

Celebrate New Year with a pomegranate and gin sparkler: put a dash of pomegranate juice and sloe gin in a glass; add a few pomegranate seeds, then top with prosecco. Serve with our canapés on p106.



IT'S A WRAP

This year, avoid the usual struggle with rolls of wrapping paper and pick up this nifty gift-wrap book instead. It includes 12 sheets of beautifully designed, top-quality wrap (50 x 70cm). New to the range this season are Maps from the British Library and Art Deco Patterns from the V&A, £12.99 each, available from Amazon and all leading bookshops.



GOGEO
Nirwa Design
triangle cushion
cover, £30



TWO WAYS
Ga Lula Tres
stool/side
table, £84



ON TIME
Layla Mehdi
wall clock, £55

BE INSPIRED

Head to the web and check out new online store A Splash of Colour (asplashofcolour.com). It has fab statement furniture and accessories and, to help make searching for the perfect item as easy as possible, you can browse by colour or product.

SOFT TOUCH
Faux-fur cushion, £29.50

KISS ME QUICK
Mistletoe cushion, £29

STAR BUY
Silver hanging star, £15

M&S

Winter frost

Chic pieces in neutrals and white create an understated scheme

SIMPLY SCANDI STYLE

ANIMAL MAGIC
Lit rattan stag, £25

STRING IT UP
Pompom garland, £10

BEARING GIFTS
Stocking, £10

The £35 EDIT

Shopping Editor Laurie has searched the high street and online for this month's brilliant home buys – all £35 or less



Want it now!

I'LL BE WEARING THESE CUTE OVEN GLOVES IN THE KITCHEN ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Sausage dog oven gloves, £14, Cath Kidston

POUNDLAND

Homespun charm

Fab festive designs in traditional red and white

ON-TREND TARTAN

CHEERS!
Wine glass, £1

READY, STEADY, COOK
Christmas apron, £1

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Tea towels; oven gloves; stag plates, bowls and mugs, all £1 each

SUPERSTARS
Large paper stars, £1 for two

ELEGANT SETTING

On coffee table: stag, £29.50; tree, £8 for two; star, £12; hurricane lantern, £17.50. On side table: light-up tree, £12; star, £7.50; snow globe, £18; tree in dome, £19.50; snowman, £4

PARED-BACK LOOK

3 of the best**FESTIVE SCENTS**

Fill your home with our favourite Christmas aromas

**BURNING LOVE**

Winter Berries
scented votive, £7.95,
Annabel James

**PINE FRESH**

Skandinavisk Skog
Forest diffuser,
£35, John Lewis

**JINGLE SMELLS**

Winter pomander,
£15 for two, The
White Company

**Stylists
at Home****JANE SAYS**

'I've just been to my local Poundland and bought new red Christmas decorations to match the decor in my lounge and dining room. You can never have too many twinkly lights!'

DOBBIES**My favourite buys**

This rustic look gets an update with animal themes and rich copper tones

SOFT GLOW

Wood and metal
lantern, £15.99

WOODLAND CREATURE

Squirrel with nut
ornament, £4.99

STAG PARTY

Majestic stag
cushion, £14.99

**SHINE ON**

Deer head, £7.99;
lantern, £14.99;
tealight cup, £2.49;
tealight holder,
£9.99; vase, £14.99

Cushion CORNER

Add a little glitz and glam to your sofa



SUBTLE SHIMMER

Sequin cushion, £7.99, New Look



TOUCH OF SPARKLE

Reindeer cushion, £10, Tesco Direct



ON MESSAGE

Silent Night cushion, £12, Matalan



GO FOR GOLD

Luxe Life sequin cushion, £14, Next



Treat yourself to a *Style at Home* subscription at magazinesdirect.com/CLP5 from only £14.99!

ALLAGLOW

Metal tealight holder, £6.99



GLASS ACT

Door knobs, £4.99 for two



H&M

Sweet dreams

Combine gentle pink and white for a restful look



CHIC STORAGE

Basket, £14.99

CLEAR ASDAY

Vase, £7.99

NEW FLAME

Candle, £4.99



OFF WITH A BANG!

Gold confetti balloon kit, £12, Idyll Home

SAY IT WITH WORDS

Glitterati 'Just Dance' garland, £8, Talking Tables

SET THE MOOD

ON MY RADAR

Party time

Get your room ready for New Year's Eve!

WHAT A DISH

Gold spot star bowl, £8, Bhs



LIGHT UP

Marble base lamp, £28, Next



MIXED METALS

Bella silver and gold wreath, £20, Habitat



WALL ART

Gold angel wing, £14.99, HomeSense



BEAUTIFUL BEDDING

Blanket, £24.99; double duvet set, £29.99; plant pot, £14.99, all H&M





Give your porch a JOYOUS FEEL



COME INSIDE
'Tis the season to be jolly' sign, £18, House of Fraser



SEASON'S GREETINGS
Pinecone wreath, £22, Very



STICK IT ON
Christmas bunting window decoration, £3.97, Lakeland

SAINSBURY'S

Vintage florals

Rich dark shades combine with striking blooms



TREASURE CHEST
Drawer jewellery storage, £26

TIME FOR TEA
Teacup and saucer, £5



DINE IN STYLE
Midnight Bloom platter, £10; side plate, £3.50; mug, £3.50



Buy it, style it!

DRESS YOUR CARD HOLDER NOT ONLY WITH CARDS, BUT ALSO FOLIAGE AND DECORATIONS FOR A FESTIVE TOUCH

Reindeer card holder, £27, Cox & Cox

Stylists at Home



TRACEY SAYS
'The H&M glass doorknobs could really give a new lease of life to bedroom furniture for a chic and refreshing look for the new year.'

HEAVEN SCENT



STORE IT
Hexagonal floral storage box, £8

AFTER DARK
Dark Orchid cloche and candle, £7



BACK IN BLACK
Vintage-effect candlestick, £8

WELL TONED

'I like the mix of mellow shades in this room'

Make it

Spell it out with your own wall word art

PAGE 26



'We adore our



MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Sarah Cann, 29, and I'm a legal PA. I live with my husband Darren, 37, a maintenance manager, our son Jasper, one, and our two King Charles spaniels, Maisie and Phoebe.

MY HOME A 200-year-old, three-bedroom terraced cottage, near Exeter, which we bought in December 2013.

WHEN WE BOUGHT IT The kitchen was very dark and dated, and the bathroom and bedrooms seemed chilly and uninviting.

AND NOW The whole house feels really light, and there are soft colours, pretty patterns and country-inspired accessories.

STYLE TIP I chose shades that would be light and fresh in summer but still warm and cosy in winter.

COUNTRY HOME'

GREAT IDEA

'Stick to neutral walls and add more colour with accessories'

WARM GLOW

'We brought the woodburner from our old home and Darren built the inglenook from bricks he found behind the fireplace'

DIY skills, clever shopping and some forward thinking helped *Stylist at Home* Sarah, 29, spread the cost of creating her dream family home

Living in a country cottage has always been a bit of a fantasy for me,' says Sarah. 'Before we moved here, my husband Darren and I would often rent a cottage during the Christmas holidays, as we enjoyed the character and cosy atmosphere so much. We'd been saving up to buy our own place since we got married in 2010, and I spent a lot of this time trying to plan as much of my new home as I could.'

When we started house hunting, there wasn't a great deal of choice in our price range, but we were really hoping to find an old property to renovate. We wanted to find a home where we could stay long term and really make our mark. It also had to be right for bringing up a family.

By the time we found the ideal place for us, I knew exactly how I wanted the interior to look and feel. My style is definitely country inspired, and I love using calm colours and lots of pretty accessories and vintage touches. I'd gathered various cuttings and photos beforehand and I'd even bought a few key items like a big, country-style dresser and a cream range cooker, which helped spread the cost.

First impressions

It was pouring with rain the first time we viewed the house, but we both loved the wooden sash windows and chocolate-box look of the outside, straightaway. Inside, there was plenty of light and the layout and space were ideal, with three bedrooms and a separate dining room and living room, which is just what we wanted. Importantly, there was a fireplace with a chimney in the living room, because a woodburner was an absolute must-have.

The interior was bland and quite dated, though. Some of the windows were painted shut, and the black tiles and worksurfaces made the kitchen »





TABLE TALK

'It really suits us to have a separate dining room and I love the warm wooden tones'

3 style buys

IN TIME

Nickel Cog design wall clock, £75, Kaleidoscope



PUT A LID ON IT

Winter tins, £4.75 for three, Ikea



KEEPING COSY

Large cream waffle throw, £15, Wilko



'IN MOST ROOMS I'VE HUNG FULL-LENGTH CURTAINS AS WELL AS A BLIND TO HIGHLIGHT THE LOVELY SASH WINDOWS AND DEEP SILLS'



MATCH UP

'The cupboards in the utility room link with the kitchen'

Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS

'Sarah's cottage is full of country charm. Like Sarah, I'm also a big bargain hunter, and at second-hand furniture shops you can find some real gems that can always be beautifully restored with a bit of work'

Do it

Create a super organised utility room
PAGE 24



RURAL CHIC

'Cream cupboards with chunky wooden handles create the country feel I wanted'

The Kitchen
is the Heart
of the Home



RUSTIC FEATURES

'These gorgeous, vegetable baskets work well because they're easy to reach and they divide the kitchen from the breakfast table'

Buy it

Store your cakes and cookies in a stylish tin
PAGE 22

» feel really dark. Even so, I was certain this was "the one" and I could see immediately what we could do with it.

The challenge ahead

We knew from the start we were facing a big task. We had ambitious plans to rewire the house, replace the bathroom, fit a new kitchen with French windows leading to the garden, and completely redecorate every room. We decided not to move in for the first three months, to give us time to get all the really messy work out of the way. Luckily, Darren is fantastically handy and can tackle most aspects of building and DIY.

Apart from the odd day off work, everything was done at weekends or in the evenings, and he sometimes worked right through the night. We had some help from friends and family, too, and, when we eventually moved in, the house had been rewired, the woodburner was in place and the new kitchen was almost ready. By this

time we'd also discovered that we were expecting our little boy, Jasper.

After a couple of months' work and upheaval, I thought the house would be ready to decorate and I would be able to add all my lovely homely touches. However, things didn't go quite as smoothly as we'd expected. We discovered that the back wall had to be stabilised, and there were rotten timbers in the kitchen ceiling, so it needed replacing. We also decided to open up the landing by removing an upstairs wall. That turned into a major job, as a steel support beam had to be put in. I hadn't expected to be living with all the mess and I couldn't wait for everything to be done.

Spotting a bargain

Over the last year or so, in between working and having Jasper, we've been steadily finishing off, as and when we've had time and money. We'd saved as much as we could for three years, and Darren's skills and hard work have massively »



NEW FOR OLD

'I revamped the wooden plate rack to suit my cream-and-beige scheme'

RESTFUL RETREAT

'Duck-egg blue is a very cosy colour at night, and lovely to wake up to as well'

GREAT IDEA

'Buy a spare roll of wallpaper to patch up any areas that may become worn or damaged'



TAKE A SEAT

'My lovely chair was a brilliant eBay buy, which has now been restored'

» reduced our outlay, but the cost of materials like paint, tiles and flooring really add up. I'm quite a bargain hunter, though. The kitchen units were on offer at B&Q, and I picked up the living room wallpaper in a Laura Ashley sale. I'm a big eBay shopper, too, and I've found some great deals, like the secondhand Rangemaster cooker and several pieces of furniture.

Nothing is wasted, either. I sold the existing oak kitchen units online and put the money towards our new, cream farmhouse-style ones. Once we'd managed to get the old cast-iron bath out and down the stairs, we sold that, too, which helped us buy Jasper's bedroom furniture.

Decorating begins

I had a very clear idea of what I wanted in each room. I like having feature walls, so there are some pretty, patterned wallpapers and also stickers. I love the quirky sayings and uplifting mottoes and they're cheap and easy to apply and take off. I've chosen soft, relaxing shades and

timeless neutrals, with pops of colour and interest. I don't want to be redecorating too often, but accessories are easily changed when I want to refresh a room. I knew I'd go for a cosy corner sofa in the living room, a Belfast kitchen sink and a glamorous, period-style slipper bath.

In a couple of instances, I couldn't find the right items, so I drew up my own. I designed the kitchen pantry storage and also the display unit in the dining room, and asked a local joiner to make them. Renovating this house was hard work, but now we've got all the charm and character we wanted. I'm looking forward to Jasper's first proper Christmas in our own home. It's our favourite time of year and I can't imagine spending it anywhere else.'



Get clicking and go to housetohome.co.uk/styleathome for more inspiring house tours.

Hit the shops

How to buy Sarah's style

- ★ **SPLASH OUT** Sarah's slipper bath looks stunning and is a great space-saver, too. Bathstore's Salisbury bath, from £549.
- ★ **STICK 'EM UP** Wall stickers are the ultimate tool for a speedy and inexpensive room transformation. Wall Art Direct's vast selection starts from £9.99.
- ★ **GO CLASSIC** Create a chic, country-style kitchen with a multi-toned, tiled splashback in browns and creams. Topps Tiles' Zanzibar ceramic wall tiles, £49 per sq m, have a natural-looking, textured finish.
- ★ **SAVE MONEY** If you love Sarah's feature wallpaper and want that impact without breaking the bank, Wilko's Holden K2 Aviary wallpaper will pretty up any room, for just £14 per roll, while the Functional Erin Teal design can add a dash of colour for just £5 per roll.
- ★ **LET IT FLOW** A heart motif links many of the rooms in Sarah's home. Create a country vibe with Argos's Mia white bedside table, £59.99, and chest of drawers, £159.99.

HOTEL CHIC

'The bathroom has a smart spa feel, but with the traditional-style suite, it still suits an old house'



'I FOUND IT USEFUL TO CREATE A MOOD BOARD WITH SWATCHES AND PHOTOS TO HELP ME CHOOSE COLOURS AND ITEMS OF FURNITURE'

CANDY COLOUR

'The polka dot blind and throw help to make the guest bedroom feel bright and inviting'



Stylists at Home



HANNAH SAYS

'Wall decals are brilliant for making a quick change to a room scheme. They are a particularly good idea for kids' rooms and nurseries, as they're easy to remove and replace as your child grows up.'

ROOM TO GROW

'Jasper's bedroom has neutral colours but lots of interesting things for him to look at'





£6

Stack these Vinter tins (set of three) in a monochrome kitchen, IKEA

GREAT VALUE PIECES



£28

The Parma Violets cake tins (set of two) will look the part in a country kitchen, LAURA ASHLEY

KEEP IT FRESH



Buy Sarah's style... CAKE TINS

Complete your kitchen look with a cute container, starting from just £6!

Looking for a practical yet pretty accessory to spruce up your kitchen or the perfect container for a Christmas gift? We've rounded up 10 of our favourite cake tin designs this season so you're bound to find something to suit your scheme and budget. Ready, steady, bake!

£22

Get the natural look with the Woodland Rose cake tins (set of two), CATH KIDSTON



£14

Indulge in the spirit of the season with the Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas tin, DEBENHAMS



£7.95

Present homemade treats in the Festive Family cake tin, DOTCOMGIFTSHOP

**£11.99**

Serve cakes from the Cooksmart Christmas Garden cake tins (set of three), AMAZON

**£19.99**

Keep baked goods fresh in the Winter Woodland storage tins (set of two), KITCHEN CRAFT

**£34**

Display the Christmas Joy cake tins (set of three), EMMA BRIDGEWATER

**STYLE SECRETS**

Don't just leave your cake tin sitting on the shelf

HOMEMADE CHARM

Bake some handmade goodies and present them in a pretty tin that can be used again for a gift that keeps on giving.

ALL IN THE DETAIL

Decorate your cake tin with a few festive flourishes if you're giving it to someone. Wrap a ribbon around it and finish with a bow, or attach a tag with a personal message.

SWEET NEW LOOK

Give old biscuit or confectionery tins a festive revamp. Coat the outside and lid with spray paint and stencil on a Christmas design.

£15

Get a folk-inspired look with the Bohemian cake tins (set of two), MARKS & SPENCER

**FULL OF CHARM****£14.49**

Add a pop of colour to your kitchen with the Anglaise red-and-cream cake tin, SUBURBAN LIVING



Like Sarah...



GIVE THE LAUNDRY A BOOST

Utility rooms need not be dull – the smallest addition can bring some well-deserved style

Having a well-designed and thought-out laundry room can make the most mundane of chores seem like a breeze, and a pleasure (well, almost). The space, of course, needs to serve a practical and functional purpose, but at the same time it can – and should – have an element of considered design. It need not be a lifeless and plain room that makes you want to frequently close the door on it. Give the space the same attention you would to any other room and introduce a touch of style.

The first area to think about is storage, as the space is undoubtedly going to get a little cluttered. You're probably using

the room to store your ironing board, washing basket, mop, and bucket, and perhaps even the cat food and litter tray, so ensure the space is fully functional and adequate with good storage solutions.

Finishing touches

Most utility rooms are connected to the kitchen, or are even a part of the cooking area, so keep the look unified by flowing the decor from one room to another – although you can go for contrasting looks. Pretty up the space with a vase of fresh flowers, vintage-style soaps and handmade tea towels and cloths to bring a touch of colour – it doesn't have to be all white.

Seamless flow

Usually it's best to carry the decor in from the kitchen – the same worktops, cabinets and wall colour will create a unified look. If, however, you dream of a country-style laundry room and your kitchen is sleek and modern, a totally contrasting look will work well, creating two uniquely defined zones.



Store any unsightly items in a chunky wooden sink unit that will make a design statement in its own right

Country look

Install a butler sink with a cast-iron tap and rustic-finish tiles to create a vintage-themed space that even *Downton's* Mrs Patmore would aspire to! Shop around on eBay and other auction sites and you could pick up an authentic, second-hand sink at a fraction of the cost. Or, for less than £200, you can get one from Taps UK.

On display

A traditional ceiling clothes dryer is ideal when space is limited, as you can hang your wet items without the need for a clothes airer. While not in use it can be adorned with tea towels for a stylish display. Pick up a classic design for only £29.95 from Bags & Racks.



Functional furniture

If you have the space in the laundry, then create an area where you can do the ironing and fold larger towels and bedding. It'll save time if you don't have to lug washing to another room. Even better if you have a door that leads into the garden – so you can bring the washing straight inside to organise.

Essential space

Keep your utility space neat and tidy, with everything close to hand – install open shelving above the sink and workspace area, and use baskets or tubs for smaller items. Hooks on the back of the door will give you extra space, while a wall rack is great for bottles and tins. Try Lakeland's four-tier over-door storage rack, £24.99.



FIT OPEN SHELVING IN A UTILITY ROOM TO ALLOW EASY ACCESS TO EVERYTHING, MAKING QUICK WORK OF TASKS

Hide away

If you don't have a separate laundry room, you can always dedicate an area of your kitchen to this purpose. Store all your essentials on the counter above, so everything is close by to hand. If you don't want these appliances on show, then have a go at stitching a simple under-counter curtain. Fabric Rehab stocks a wonderful selection of cotton fabrics from £6 per m.

CLEANING TIPS

Try making your own natural laundry products

BANISH SINK ODOURS

Tip half a cup of bicarbonate of soda and half a cup of vinegar down the plughole. Leave to soak for a few minutes and then rinse with hot water from the kettle.

LINEN WATER

Make your own ironing water by mixing three tablespoons of vodka and 30 drops of lavender oil with two cups of distilled water for beautifully fresh linen water. Make ironing easier by spritzing the water from a spray bottle.

LOVELY LEMONS

Natural lemon juice is perfect as a cleaner – it cuts through grease and leaves a refreshing scent. Scrub chopping boards by rubbing half a lemon over them, clean Tupperware with diluted juice or pop a slice in your dishwasher to deodorize it.

GO NATURAL

Make your own chemical-free polish by pouring one part lemon juice to two parts olive or linseed oil into a clean jam jar. Screw on the lid and shake well. It's perfect for buffing wood and will keep fresh smelling for up to one month in a fridge. Do a spot test first.



For more ideas on creating a utility room that's stylish and practical, go to [pinterest.com/styleathomemag](https://www.pinterest.com/styleathomemag)





Make Sarah's WORDPLAY WALL TILES

Be inspired by Sarah's look and have a go at making your very own lettered wall tiles to add a personal touch to your space

Looking for a quick and simple project to tackle in an afternoon? Try your hand at our Scrabble-inspired wall art to customise your room in next to no time. This project can easily be designed to suit any area you want to update; for example, choose food names for a quirky kitchen display, or even cartoon characters in a kid's bedroom.

HOW TO

TAKES 2HRS COST £18.74

- * 13 x 13cm squares of wood (cut in store), £15.34 for 244 x 61cm sheet, B&Q
- * Medium grade sandpaper
- * Scissors
- * Masking tape
- * Sharp pencil & ruler
- * Black marker pen
- * 3M Command picture hanging strips, £3.40 for four sets, 3M Direct

WORD UP

Nest glazed vase, £12; cream frame, £6; small stag head, £10; wood slice frame, £8; wooden star, £8, all Wilko

DO IT IN
2hrs



SPELL OUT FAMILY NAMES OR YOUR FAVOURITE SAYINGS TO CUSTOMISE YOUR DESIGN, OR ADAPT THE LETTERS TO WORK IN ANY ROOM IN THE HOUSE

1 Have your piece of plywood cut to size in a local DIY store (we used B&Q). Each tile should measure 13 x 13cm and you will need enough to spell out your chosen words design. Sand down any rough edges on each tile using the medium-grade sandpaper, and slightly round the corners. Wipe clean to remove any dust.

2 Using a computer, print out a 13 x 13cm square of paper with your chosen letter and small number in a Scrabble format. Cut this out and position over the wooden tile, securing with a few strips of masking tape to hold in place. Use a pencil to draw around the outline of the letter, pressing down firmly enough to dent the wood.

3 Once you have created an indented outline of the letter and number on the tile, remove the paper template. Use a black marker pen to draw around the outline on the wood and then fill in between the lines. Hang each tile on the wall using a picture-hanging strip, making sure they are evenly spaced before fixing.



What caught your eye first, the kitchen or the price?



Made in the uk

All these Handleless White Gloss
kitchen units for just*

£1,572

Affordable luxury.

55 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE
visit wrenkitchens.com

* Priced kitchen is for units only and does not include the price of any handles, worktops, appliances, sink, tap, props, accessories or small worktop appliances. Must be purchased in the exact configuration as offered by Wren. No substitutions or alterations can be made.

wren
KITCHENS

STAND OUT

'We painted the walls a dark grey to make the Edwardian tiles around the fireplace really pop out. The gold Christmas tree is from Talking Tables'

GREAT IDEA

'Style your shelves with accessories that tell a story to really make the space your own'



'We now have space TO ENTERTAIN'

Stylist at Home Kate, 28, was keen to create a relaxed open-plan environment in her suburban period home

COSY CORNER

'This is the perfect place to settle down to relax and unwind'

MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Kate Rogers, 28, a project manager for Marks & Spencer, and I live with my husband Chris, 29, a banker, and our dog, Molly.

MY HOME A three-bed Edwardian semi in Kent, which we bought in January 2015.

WHEN I MOVED IN Not one room was decorated to our taste, but the house just felt good. Even though the interior was dated, we loved the period details.

AND NOW Our home is a mix of modern and traditional and I've tried to introduce personality with fun, quirky pieces.

STYLE TIP Only buy something if you love it! If you fill your house with things you really love then it will always look great. Don't buy anything just to fill a space.

I knew this house was the one for us the second I walked through the door, but we went through a very stressful time trying to buy it,' says Kate. 'It was almost a whole year between having our offer accepted and finally moving in. We were so excited, and relieved, when we finally got the keys!

We decided straight away to knock the kitchen and dining room into one. Once we moved in, the renovations began almost immediately. Our builders were great and left us with the essentials, such as an oven and fridge, so we weren't disturbed very much. I was amazed at how quickly the work was carried out everything was completed in four weeks.

A new layout

We chose a kitchen from Howdens, as our builder recommended them to us and they offer a brilliant service where they can show you a 3D visualisation of the room. We'd originally wanted to include a breakfast bar, but the 3D plan helped us to see that the space just wasn't quite big enough. Part of me wishes I'd gone for marble worktops instead of oak, but I guess that's the downside of all the inspiration so readily available on blogs and social media nowadays it means you always want to change things!

While we left the bulk of the work to the experts, we did get stuck into doing elements of the decorating ourselves, such as the painting, to help keep costs down. And we couldn't be happier with the final result. Knocking the two rooms into one has completely transformed the space and it feels much lighter and more modern now it's ideal for entertaining.

Choosing a scheme

The dining area was very dated in its decor, so I knew I wanted to give it a total makeover once the kitchen was finished. I couldn't wait to get rid of the red walls! We started by laying white laminate flooring from Homebase, which instantly >>

Do it

Be on trend and decorate with super-sleek greys
PAGE 36

WINTER WARMER

'I bought this faux-fur throw from Bhs to cosy up the living room in December'

» made the space feel so much bigger. I decided to go for a dark colour on the walls and I chose Juniper Ash by Little Greene. A good tip when testing out shades is to paint the colour onto lining paper and hang it around the room so you can see how the colour looks in different spots and at various times of the day.

House to home

I'm absolutely obsessed with interiors and spend every spare minute I have looking at blogs or reading homes magazines. While we were decorating, I had a Pinterest board for every single room in the house including the downstairs loo! However, I do find it hard to choose a particular style, as I like so many. So instead, I usually start a scheme by picking one or two key pieces and go from there. For example, in the living room, I built the entire look around the map on the wall, using the gold frame to inspire the other accessories.

I enjoy hunting around for quirky, unique pieces at antiques markets and I'm always checking eBay for bargain buys. On there, I found a set of beautiful vintage gilded frames and bagged 15 of them for the price of one new one! Our dining table was handmade by a seller on Etsy who I contacted when I couldn't find the right design anywhere. He was absolutely fantastic and made exactly what I was looking for, so I'd definitely recommend going bespoke – it's not as expensive as you might think. We then decided on »

'TIS THE SEASON

'Our festive table is styled with a range of decorations from Sainsbury's – I love the silver and white hues against the grey walls'

Make it
Craft Christmas
cone tealight
holders
PAGE 38



LIGHT UP

'We decided on a hassle-free alternative and chose a pre-lit tree from Wilko'



HANG A LARGE STATEMENT MIRROR AGAINST DARK-COLOURED WALLS TO HELP REFLECT THE LIGHT BACK INTO THE ROOM

GO FAUX

'I covered Ikea shelves with marble-effect plastic for a designer look'



Stylists at Home



MARIE SAYS
'Combining contrasting textures and colours such as the reclaimed wood table and the stylish chairs gives the room depth and creates interest.'



3 style buys

GOING GREEN

White pot with faux succulent, £2.99, HomeSense



A TOUCH OF GLASS

Wren cluster ceiling light, £150, Bhs



PRINT IT

Grey woven geo cushion, £16, Next



PERFECT MATCH

'For the splashback, I chose metro tiles in a colour that matches the dining area to tie the scheme together'

Buy it

Gor for contemporary dining chairs for a chic look
PAGE 34



STYLE TIP

'Make open-plan spaces flow by using the same flooring between both areas'



OFF THE WALL

'I bought the wire memo board from a DIY store, cut it to size and then spray-painted it black'

» Eames-style chairs in a mix of black, white and blue to keep the look modern.

I came across some gorgeous marble shelves while I was looking for accessories for the dining room, but as they were quite pricey, I decided to have a go at making my own. I bought some Ikea shelves and covered them in marble-effect sticky-back plastic. It was a bit tricky but eventually I managed to do it without any creases and people now say how good they look.

Looking forward

I'm thrilled that we've managed to do so much to the house in the short time we've lived here. Plus, we've been very lucky and haven't experienced too many problems while carrying out any of the major work, but older houses do have a habit of turning up issues, so we're prepared for it.

But even though we've done a lot, we have much more to do. We haven't even started upstairs yet and I'm still undecided on how to decorate the bedrooms. My favourite room is, without a doubt, the dining area. I didn't have too much of a plan for this space and just bought things that I loved when I saw them. The design feels very personal to us and it's nice to see the house and our style evolve over time.'



See inspiring house tour videos and ideas at housetohome.co.uk/styleathome

KEEP THE PEACE

'A muted green creates a calm feel in here. The bed linen and table lamps are from Dunelm'



SPEND TIME RESTORING AND REPAIRING PERIOD FEATURES - THEY WILL ENHANCE THE CHARM AND CHARACTER OF EACH SPACE



DOUBLE UP

'The console table used to be in my bedroom. I painted it grey, added a glass top, and now it fits in the hall perfectly'

WORD ART

'A few framed prints will instantly add personality'



Stylists at Home



ANGELA SAYS

'The hallway of Kate's house is wonderfully stylish. I love how the grey console table, and the mirror makes the space light, bright and very welcoming.'

Hit the shops

Where to go and what to buy to get Kate's chic style

*** GO BESPOKE** If you're struggling to find the perfect piece, get some quotes for something bespoke. Websites such as Etsy or Notonthehighstreet.com are great places to find sellers who might offer this service, or speak to your builder as they may be able to help.

*** GREY MATTER** Decorate your walls with grey for a calm, modern

scheme. Try Dulux's Chic Shadow, £19.99 per 2.5ltr, Homebase, for a soft shade.

*** SEASONAL BUYS** For a hassle-free option choose a Christmas tree that's pre-lit. We love the 6ft Pennine fir tree with built-in lights, £130, from Wilko.

*** PICTURE PERFECT** Follow Kate's lead and group together photo frames for a stylish focal

point. Try the copper hanging frames, £25 for three, from Cox & Cox, and fill with postcards or family snaps for a personalised display.

*** FLOOR FILLER** Bring light into your room with a whitewashed-effect floor. B&Q does a wide range of laminates from £13.75 per sq m. They look great and they're a practical choice for busy family homes.

STYLE TIP

'Hang a picture ledge above the bed for a quirky way to display wall art'



SPACE SAVER

'The large sink unit provides great storage in this compact bathroom'



BACK TO LIFE

'We carefully revived the fireplace in our bedroom and it's now a beautiful feature'

WORDS CASSIE PRYCE STYLING LAURIE DAVIDSON
& CASSIE PRYCE PHOTOGRAPHS LIZZIE ORME



COVET
COPPER
TONES

£146
EACH

Create the look of an industrial kitchen-diner. Merle metal chair, AROUND THE HOUSE FURNITURE



£70
EACH

Be influenced by French cafe style with this lightweight chair, handmade from natural materials. Almsta chair, IKEA



£39
EACH

This pastel beauty comes in four different shades, so mix and match. Daisy chair, VERY

Buy Kate's style MODERN DINING CHAIRS

Update your home with our pick of bright new seat designs



Give your dining area a new look by changing your seating.

Like Kate, create a relaxed feel by choosing chairs that don't match your table, or different designs for a mix-and-match scheme. Alternatively, pick matching seats in different shades of the same colour for an on-trend ombre finish. We've selected a wide range of designs, so there's sure to be some to suit you.



A CLEAR
WINNER!

£126.50
EACH

Make a splash with the aptly named L'eau chair, which comes in an array of colours, including transparent. Calligaris L'eau stackable chair, DESIGN 55



£290
PER PAIR

Get your guests talking around the table with this original-looking piece, created by skilled craftsmen. Geronimo chair in gunmetal, LOAF

STYLE SECRETS

A few tips to keep in mind when chair shopping...

WHAT'S YOUR STYLE

Take into account the area you're buying for. The kitchen tends to lend itself to a more relaxed style and welcomes experimental and eclectic styles, while a dining room is often more formal, with coordinating furnishings.

MEASURED CHOICE

If you've already got the table, measure its height and note the desired height of the chairs. This is especially important when it comes to chairs with arms, as it's essential that they fit under the table when pushed in, and they will be much wider, so allow extra space.

MAKE IT WORK

Mix and match your chairs. To achieve a seamless yet eclectic feel, choose seats in the same colour but in different styles. If you want to be really bold, then pick the same style chair but in a variety of colours.

WORDS THEODA SOLMS ILES



£69
EACH

Achieve an upmarket, designer look with stitching details on the upholstered seat. Eames-inspired butterfly dining chair, CULT FURNITURE



£129
PER PAIR

For a clean Nordic look, choose something simple in two-tone colouring. Bradshaw dining chairs in grey or white, MARKS & SPENCER



£175
EACH

Inject a seasonal feel with this classic-style chair, given a super cool design makeover by pattern queen Cath Kidston. Woodland print bentwood chair, CATH KIDSTON



£149.99
PER PAIR

Bring a luxurious feel to your dining table with this button-back design. Antoinette charcoal dining chair, DUNELM



£49
EACH

Add instant chic to your room with this design classic. Eames moulded wire-frame dining chair in yellow, DANETTI



Recreate Kate's style... 3

Whether you go for light or dark, there's a shade to suit

Grey & copper

Take the intensity out of dark grey by softening this look with oh-so-fashionable copper accessories. The rose-gold undertones have a lovely way of adding a gentle glow to the scheme, making it warm and inviting. The darker the shade of grey, the more moody and dramatic, so make use of this quality by playing with dark and light metallic tones in copper and brass.



MARVELLOUS MARBLE
Croft Collection pestle and mortar, £35, John Lewis



SET THE SCENE
Copper salad servers, £26, Oliver Bonas



HANDY & TRENDY
Salt & Pepper grinders, £20, Next

MODERN MOOD
Copenhagen extending dining table and six Ely chairs, from £1,709, Multiyork. Walls painted in Down Pipe estate emulsion, £38 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



SOFT & SHINY
Copper Star cushion, £7, George Home

LEADING LIGHTS
Liliana ceiling cluster, £150, House of Fraser



TIMELESS DESIGN
Bali 12-piece set, £24.99, Bhs



Grey & pastels

Add light grey to a pastel colour palette and create an air of soft sophistication. This relaxed combination is perfect for the bedroom, and also the living room. Shades of light grey complement pinks and mauves beautifully. Keep larger pieces, such as a headboard or sofa, in light grey and just add pretty accessories in pastel shades to bring this look to life and make it your own.



MIRRORED COLLAGE
Pastel wall mirror, £59, Oliver Bonas



SIDE KICKS
Orion nest of tables, £99, Made



GET SORTED
Metal storage trunks, from £89, Idyll Home

WAYS WITH GREY

every room. Try these smart colour combinations...



Check out our blog cushionnumber.co.uk for even more affordable, must-have accessories



THE NEW PASTEL
Poppy king-size storage bed, £1,325, Button & Sprung. Relaxed Denim bedding set, £79, Secret Linen Store. Kabru Radhi rug, £324, Holly's House

Grey & yellow

Be confident and inject a bold hit of colour to your grey living space. Citron-yellow mixed with shades of medium grey, white and hints of black makes for a contemporary look. We love how the yellow lifts the room and all that's needed is just a few accessories in this punchy colour. Invest in a yellow light shade or lamp and look for small items, such as vases and cushions, with a geometric print.



CITRON PUNCH
Holly sofa in Smoke, £1,100; Wisley cushion, £50; Ikat cushion, £49, all Sofa.com. Backgammon wallpaper, £50, Mini Moderns

PLAID SIMPLE
Graphite check cushion, £25, Marks & Spencer



TEA BREAK
Jude mug, £10 for a set of four, Habitat

STATEMENT PIECE
Yellow floor lamp, £139, Rigby & Mac



GRAPHIC GALLERY

Framed grey and yellow abstract art painting, from £74.99, Art.co.uk



STAR LIGHT

Graham & Brown lit star, £59, Very



SMART STORAGE
Vessel clouds print container by Rosie Moss, £28, Designers Makers

MAKE YOUR OWN
Elin Citrine fabric, £22 per m, John Lewis



GOGEO

Cotton cushion cover, £7.99, H&M



ECO CHIC

Modern recycled cardboard wall clock, £30, Etsy



LINE THEM UP
Pale vase set, £29, Atnumber67.co.uk



Make Kate's LED TEALIGHT HOLDER CONES

Create a magical winter scene with our step-by-step project to make your own flameless tealight holders this festive season

Add a little sparkle to your Christmas decor with our simple DIY cones, inspired by Kate's seasonal look. This straightforward make is perfect for styling your mantelpiece or windowsill – just be sure to only use flameless LED tealights inside to avoid a fire hazard.

HOW TO

TAKES 2HRS COST £3.80*

- * Thick cardboard craft cones, from £2.15, Craftmill
- * Pencil & ruler
- * Sharp, rounded object (we used an embroidery needle)
- * Rust-Oleum white primer spray, £9.49, Homebase
- * Rust-Oleum metallic chrome spray paint, £9.49, Homebase
- * Stopen LED battery-operated tealights, £6 for eight, Ikea



DO
IT IN
2hrs!



1



2



3

EXPERIMENT WITH THE DESIGN OF YOUR CONES
FOR A MORE INDIVIDUAL FINISH - A STAR OR HEART
SHAPE IS A SIMPLE IDEA TO TRY

1 Using a pencil and ruler, mark out your chosen design onto the surface of the cone. Make sure the dots are evenly spaced so you're left with neat lines and keep the dots at least 5mm apart to stop the cone from tearing. For designs with curved edges, you may find it easier to mark the dots without using a ruler.

2 Take your sharp-ended object and push through the cone along your marked dots. We found that an embroidery needle worked best. Be careful not to push down too hard, as this can cause the cone to buckle. Continue working your way along the dots until you have completed the whole pattern.

3 Working outside on newspaper, spray your cone with a layer of primer and leave to dry thoroughly. Once dry, apply a coat of silver spray paint if you wish (we left some of ours white for variety). Place a fake LED tealight inside your cone to finish – **remember not to use real flame candles inside the cones.**

THIS MONTH'S *Love it*

Who wouldn't feel like a kid waking up here on Xmas morning? Rustic wood-effect wallpaper creates a subtle backdrop to cheerful, colourful bedlinen and a shining star light. Perfect for little ones to snuggle up in while dreaming of Santa...

Nowhere to hang stockings on the bed? String them up along the wall

Stylists *at Home*



NATALIE SAYS
'Get children excited with a Christmas Eve box. Fill it with new Christmas PJ's, a DVD and sweets to enjoy while watching the film.'

STAR BRIGHT

Jolly Holiday cushion, £12; Bobby bear, £20; stockings, £10 each; Santa on Vespa cushion, £12, all Bhs

'The 1960s vibe MAKES MY HOME UNIQUE'

A dated interior didn't deter *Stylist at Home* Gillian, 37 – instead she turned it into a home full of creative touches

MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Gillian Roe, 37, and I'm a school administrator and part-time blogger at Tales from a Happy House. I live with my husband John, 37, a retail manager, and our children, Bella, 9, and Angus, 6.

MY HOME A four-bed chalet-style 1960s detached near Portsmouth. We moved here in March 2015.

WHEN I BOUGHT IT All the services had been disconnected, so the house felt cold, bare and bleak. There were some jarring patterns on the walls, the patio door to the balcony was leaking, and the boiler and electrics were in a poor state.

AND NOW It's light and bright, with white walls, wood floors, and lots of printed fabrics and handmade items. Our new woodburner is a focal point and the chic blend of high-street furniture, Scandi style and retro pieces enhances the 1960s feel.

STYLE TIP Check out the high street for well-priced versions of design classics, just like my affordable grey Ekenäset chair from Ikea.

SPACE PLANNING

'Instead of placing it against the wall, I put the sofa in the middle to create a cosy area around the fireplace'



STYLE TIP

'Add colour with bright cushions made out of different fabrics'



'I love wood, and although I might not have chosen the dark laminate flooring I've inherited, it's practical and in good condition'



Our house sold surprisingly quickly and we soon moved down with our two children. However, finding a new home and getting properly settled took a further three months. Luckily, we were all able to stay with my parents near Portsmouth, which we were really grateful for because renting elsewhere would have been very expensive. We were also able to store our furniture with family and friends who live in the local area, which was a huge help as it saved us a small fortune on storage costs.

I wanted a long-term house, somewhere we wouldn't outgrow in five years time. But as soon as we started looking, I

It's a 1960s house with typical features, including an asymmetric chimney breast in the living room, huge windows and slanting, wood-clad ceilings. The main bedroom even has a patio door out to a balcony. Although the design is definitely a bit out of fashion, it really appealed to me. The ground floor has a large living room, kitchen and dining area, as well as a playroom for Bella and Angus, a guest »

Make a style statement with clever storage ideas
PAGE 48

'To contrast with the vibrant green, I've made a display with floral prints and white frames'

FRESH FEEL

'Our dining room is very bright, thanks to the floor-to-ceiling window and patio doors. It's lovely in summer'

GREAT IDEA

'Keep a collection of table runners for different occasions'

**Make it**

Learn how to craft embroidery hoops

PAGE 50

**STITCH IN TIME**

'The folksy look of hand-embroidery really appeals, and I enjoyed making these pictures'

» bedroom and the family bathroom. Upstairs is much smaller in comparison, with three bedrooms and a WC, so the unusual layout might have put some people off, but it suits us fine.

Time to renovate

The property required quite a bit of work before we could even move in. We had to get all the services reconnected, which took a long time, and the boiler, electrics and leaky patio door in the main bedroom all needed to be repaired. These were essential jobs, but there wasn't much to see for the outlay, and by the time it was finished, I couldn't wait to start decorating!

John and I tackled the living room first, ripping out the boxing that had been installed around the fireplace. The slope-sided chimney breast is now the room's focal feature and gave me the opportunity to put in the woodburner I've always wanted. I carried out a lot of research online to find a simple design that would suit the clean lines of the room. The installation was an extremely messy job that involved bashing out a lot of brickwork – it was by far the biggest project. Plus, it took quite a chunk out

of our budget, but I knew that if we didn't go ahead at the start, we might never do it and perhaps regret it later.

Choosing a palette

Eventually, we'd like to completely redo the kitchen and family bathroom, but for now, they are both decorated in a neutral colour scheme, and are perfectly fine, as are all the floorings. My dad kindly fixed the wobbly kitchen cabinets and after this, there was just hours of painting to be done. I started with the children's rooms, as I wanted them to settle quickly in their new home. Angus's room was just a bit grubby and dreary, but in Bella's we had to cover up a huge cartoon mural on one wall. I encouraged them to be involved in the decorating as much as possible, and they both really enjoyed having a say in what they wanted in their rooms.

Painting the vast sloping ceilings in the living room and dining room was quite a challenge. We used a roller for speed, but had to go over parts of it with a brush in order to get in between all the lengths of wood cladding, which took ages. I chose shades of white almost everywhere to emphasise the space and light. I've then »

Stylists at Home



JANE SAYS

'I really love the colourful throw on Gillian's sofa in the living room. I would probably crochet cushion covers to match it. The dining room looks fabulous with the natural light streaming in.'

'FOR AN EYE-CATCHING IDEA, ARRANGE YOUR BOOKS BY COLOUR – IT'S QUICK AND EASY, AND YOU'LL BE SURPRISED BY HOW GOOD IT LOOKS'



NATURAL LOOK

'Although the kitchen is a little bit worn, it's very roomy, full of light and has a simple neutral backdrop, so we're happy to keep it as it is – for now!'



LIVEN UP

'The "family wall" of framed treasures adds colour and personality to this otherwise calm space'

3 style buys

SOFT TOUCH

Vintage Ivy cushion, £12.95, Dotcomgiftshop



PRETTY PASTEL

Rose Geometric bud vase, £12.95, MiaFleur



TAKE A SEAT

Fearne Coco crochet pouffe in cream, £49, Very

SIMPLE SOLUTION

'To dress up the Ikea furniture, we've put in interesting bits and pieces, like the pennant decals on the wardrobe'



BLUE SPLASH

'The bathroom is simple and modern, with an easy-to-live-with white suite. Our blue towels help brighten it up'



Stylists at Home



TRACEY SAYS

'The simple colour palette of Gillian's bedroom makes this scheme really flexible. A variety of shades could be introduced in the bedding and artwork if she fancies a change.'

'IF YOU'RE A CRAFTING NOVICE, LOOK ONLINE FOR TIPS AND VIDEOS – YOU'LL SOON LEARN HOW TO MAKE ALL SORTS OF LOVELY THINGS'

Hit the shops

Five tips on what to buy to get Gillian's style

★ **QUICK UPDATE** Cushions are a brilliant and inexpensive way to brighten up a space. Habitat's colourful range includes zingy geometric prints like Evelyn, Zig and Pelly, from £12 each. Add a handmade feel with La Redoute's button crochet knit covers, £18 each.

★ **CLASSIC LOOK** Gillian's simple, metal bed is a timeless design that suits any style of home. At £116, Bedroom World's Phoenix metal bed has the same classic appeal at an affordable price.

★ **BE BUDGET SAVVY** Bring designer style to your dining table without the price tag. Lakeland Furniture's replica Eames DSR chairs are available in nine vibrant colours and are just £49.99 each.

★ **IN THE SPOTLIGHT** Turn your table into a focal point by hanging a stylish light above it. John Lewis's Tony ceiling pendant, £45, comes in cool white or teal-blue.

★ **SMART STYLE** Choose graphic printed bedlinen for a clean-cut retro finish. Try La Redoute's Clarisse spotty single duvet cover, £23. Or if you want to splash out, a single duvet cover in the iconic Orla Kiely Stem design is £70 at John Lewis.



BOY ZONE

'The Cable and Cotton string of baubles instantly adds a sense of fun to Angus's room'



YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE

'The yellow MissPrint bedlinen from John Lewis is a particular favourite of mine – I like its fresh feel'

STYLE TIP

'Take time when choosing a bold colour and always test it before you paint the whole wall'

Buy it

Add charm and character with pretty photo frames

PAGE 46

» added colour with bold feature walls, such as the beautiful blue in our bedroom and the fabulous zingy green in the entrance hall. I love coming home and opening the front door to something vibrant and inspiring. I find that it really makes the most of the space even though you don't often linger there.

Retro look

Most of our furniture came with us from our old place and fortunately, it's fitted in really well with the style of the house, although we did have to part with our old dining table as it was too big. There was just nowhere it would fit, so I gave it to friends in exchange for their smaller, circular G-plan table. This is now one of quite a few retro pieces I've got. It seats four people comfortably and is just right for our cosy dining area. I added replica Eames chairs to complete the look – it's a great way to bring designer style to the scheme without the price tag.

I'm also drawn to simple Scandinavian style as it gives a fresh, clean look, so we have a few Ikea pieces here and there, especially in the children's bedrooms. Finally, I mixed in some high-street buys

that I customised for a unique look, but all together, it seems to lend itself well to our 1960s interior, creating an eclectic mix.

Crafty style

I like plenty of personal touches to create a homely feel and I'm constantly making things. I can't relax without some sewing, knitting or crochet in my hands. I use the neutral walls to display items that have meaning for us, such as holiday finds or the children's sewing and artwork. I'm a fan of shelves, mantels and ledges, too. They're a great way to show things off, plus it's easy to change the items to freshen up the look.

We've not been here long, but this house already feels like our home. There's potential to extend the kitchen and upstairs, too – it just all takes time. I understand that the 1960s look might not be to everyone's taste, but instead of trying to disguise it, we've embraced it and I think it's worked.'

REVAMP IT

'This dressing table was an old pine piece that I refreshed with a coat of Annie Sloan paint'



Treat yourself or a friend by subscribing to *Style At Home* at magazinesdirect.com/CLP5 from only £14.99!



£29.95

Display your favourite holiday snaps in the Beach Hut photo frame, DOTCOMGIFTSHOP

Buy Gillian's style PICTURE FRAMES

Follow Gillian's lead and update your space with a gallery wall or a mix of freestanding photo frames



Give your treasured photos and postcards pride of place by showcasing them in a brand-new frame, and update your room in an instant.

We've hunted high and low to track down the best frames on the high street and online. Prices start from as little as £1.50, so you'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to picking the perfect design to suit your scheme. Happy shopping!



£20

Create an Instagram-style wall with the funky Umbra Hangit photo display, AMARA



EASY SHABBY CHIC



£18.99

Team the Shabby Elegance photo hanger frame with a pastel palette, WAYFAIR



£1.50

Bag a bargain and go for the colourful Basic frame in red, TESCO DIRECT

HANG
IN A
GROUP

£55

Mix landscape and portrait photos in the Wooden multi frame, THE ORCHARD

£16

Hang the At Home with Ashley Thomas multi frame in a country-chic hallway, DEBENHAMS

£12.50

Channel an industrial vibe with the on-trend hanging photo frame, MARKS & SPENCER

£24

A timeless design, the folding squares frame is ideal for grouping together cherished family photos, OLIVER BONAS

£25

The Phoenix photo frame will bring a geometric twist to your scheme, LOAF

£6

Go retro with the Yellow Glass & Bird Floral photo frame, BHS

STYLE SECRETS

Think outside the box with our creative ideas

RUSTIC REVAMP

Visit charity shops or car-boot sales to pick up old frames at a bargain price. Lightly sand them and then coat with chalk paint for a shabby-chic finish.

IN THE FRAME

Make yourself a noticeboard from an old frame (you won't need the glass). Remove the backing and paint it with chalkboard paint before popping it back inside the

frame. Hang in the kitchen to jot down recipes or shopping lists.

PICTURE THIS

Can't choose just one frame? Pick several and group together on a wall to create a gallery. Mix and match styles for an eclectic look, or cluster coordinating designs together for a smart finish. Visit our Pinterest page, [pinterest.com/styleathomemag](https://www.pinterest.com/styleathomemag/), for more ideas on how to create a gallery wall.

PILE 'EM HIGH
Crate Mate storage,
£125, Loaf



3 *Box clever*

The hall is where most outdoor clothing is stored and also a place to display a lamp, books and scented candles. Different-sized boxes can be hung on the wall or piled up on the floor to add a different dimension to storage.

4 *The bees knees*

These honeycomb-shaped boxes are small enough to use on a surface like a desk or worktop, yet robust enough to stack on the floor.

HIVE STYLE

Set of three
hexagon box
shelves, £125,
Rigby & Mac



Copy Gillian's STORAGE WITH A DIFFERENCE

Use clever storage solutions throughout your home,
as Gillian has done, to make functional style statements

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

Vintage metal
trolley, £165,
Cox & Cox



No-one likes clutter and whether it's toys or everyday items, such as magazines and papers, most of us have places to stow these away. But if you want something that's not purely functional, use creative storage ideas to create a feature in your home.

1 *Trolley dolly*

Following on from the latest home trends and the popular utilitarian industrial look, this trolley has it all. Small and mobile, it's perfect for the kitchen, keeping everyday items within easy reach.

2 *Tall order*

This ladder with boxed shelving is ideal for keeping bathroom items stored neatly but still easy to see. Larger items like towels fit on the bottom shelves, while the slimmer top shelves are perfect for beauty products.

COASTAL AIR

Shelf ladder, £150;
towel cupboard, £130;
country stripe towels
from £3; St Ives mirror,
£50, all John Lewis



5 Pop of pastel

Storage can also be used to inject some colour into a room, whether it's a contrasting shade or a touch of something totally different to make a feature. Materials such as wire, metal or wood are also an option, as these will bring texture to the scheme of a room.

LUSH LUGGAGE

Decorative suitcases, from £30, Oliver Bonas

Top your trunks with a lamp in a warm copper to make a gorgeous display

LET'S HANG

For a similar rail-and-hook system, try the Grundtal rail, £4, and S-hooks, £2 per pack, Ikea

8 Hooked up

Think outside the box and install a metal pole with hook and shelf-hanging options. Perfect for a home office or craft area, this system is easily adapted. The wire-look baskets are so on-trend, too.

OLD-SCHOOL STYLE

Stow storage unit, £599, Made

7 Make a show

Decorate a blank wall with a variety of shelves. Space them closely in a loose arrangement to create an interesting shape. Alternate wall boxed shelves, photo rails, or regular thin shelves to add interest. Dress the shelves with an assortment of pretty objects for an eclectic feel.

RACKIT UP

Oak wall photo rack, £29.95; oak wall storage box, £44.95; oak wall rack, £75, all Graham and Green

9 One size fits all

We love this tall unit in vintage brass. Not only will it hold a range of items, but with many different compartments it will be easy to organise and keep tidy. This vintage industrial style is ideal for most homes and will fit in almost anywhere.

For more inspiration and to shop for retro accessories, visit theroomedit.com

6 Off the wall
With little space in the bathroom, it's handy to have an extra area for bits and bobs. Make a feature of the wall with this unique round shelving unit.

IN THE ROUND
Metal wall shelf, £105, Vincent and Barn



Make Gillian's EMBROIDERY HOOP DISPLAY

Love Gillian's look? Add a little bit of homespun charm to your space with our oh-sew-simple needlework hoop projects

Get creative and have a go at making your own wall display using pretty fabric embroidery hoops. Use single pieces of fabric for a simple idea, or sew on buttons for detail, then group together on the wall as a cluster.

HOW TO

TAKES 1HR COST FROM £5

- ✦ 8" wood embroidery hoop, £2.50 each, Hobbycraft
- ✦ White calico fabric, £2 per m, Ikea
- ✦ Tapestry wool & buttons
- ✦ Felt, 50p per sheet, Hobbycraft
- ✦ Cotton thread
- ✦ Fabric scissors, pins & fabric glue

1 To make the button flowers design, unscrew the hoop and remove the inner section. Lay a piece of calico fabric over the inner hoop, replace the outer hoop and screw shut, pulling the fabric taut. Thread the tapestry needle with wool and stitch 'stalks' onto the fabric. Sew buttons at the end of each stalk and trim away excess fabric around the hoop.

2 For the lettered design, unscrew the hoop and remove the inner section and repeat the above with white fabric. Print out capital letters to spell out your words and cut out. Draw around each letter on felt sheets and place onto the hoop. Pin in place and neatly stitch each letter to the fabric with cotton thread. Cut small triangles of leftover felt and stick on using fabric glue.



DO IT IN 1hr!

ROUND 'EM UP
Hedblomster cushion, £15;
Maryd tray table, £45; Rander rug, £13, all Ikea

CREATE THE ZIGZAG WOOL DESIGN BY WRAPPING DIFFERENT COLOURED TAPESTRY THREADS AROUND THE FRAME BEFORE REPLACING THE OUTER HOOP



What you smell.

What your
guests smell.



Have you gone noseblind?

Febreze truly eliminates odours and leaves a light Christmas scent.



Breathe Happy

Look what you styled...

FINISHING TOUCHES

Click @styleathomemag on Instagram and tag your super-styled pictures with #SAHstylists for your chance to be featured right here

SMART STYLING

Make the most of period features in your home to act as a base for your decorating. For example, you could use a fireplace as a focal point and dress with pretty trinkets and bunting, just as @echodesignsuk has done.



SUITE DREAMS

Choose blush pink and champagne to add luxury to your bedroom. Use neutral cream and off-white tones as a base, then accessorise with cushions, lighting and metallic elements. Love your look @prettychic_83!



WINTER WARMER

You could follow @lesleydavies delightfinds' lead and cosy up with a slice of cake and a cuppa to escape the chill. Style up your table with candles to emit a welcoming glow and introduce warm colours, such as reds and creams, into your scheme. LED candles are a safe alternative if you have little ones.



WELL DRESSED

Upcycle a dressing table with a lick of paint and new drawer pulls, as @donnalyn18 has. She found these pretty knobs in TK Maxx and has used Liberty's Betsy fabric to upholster the matching stool.



Roll up!

If you only stock up on one item this festive season, make sure it's a roll of brown paper to rescue you in wrapping emergencies! Whether you embellish with ribbon, sprinkle with glitter or add your own stamped designs, you can personalise your parcels as you like, as @themummystylist does. See more of her ideas at themummystylist.com.



We want to see your upcycling pics! Share them using hashtags #stylists revamps or #stylistsmakes

Ultimate GIFT GUIDE

This year, give friends and family a present they'll love. We've scoured the high street for you and found something for everyone - it's time to go shopping! >>





PINK PICKS
Penguins
pyjama set, £50,
Cath Kidston



BLUE DEAL
DAB radio in
blue, £40, Bhs



GLITZ IT
Kylie Minogue
Velvetina
cushion, £27,
Fishpools



TAKENOTE
A5 notebook,
£15, The White
Company



POT OF GOLD
Trinket box,
£7.99, H&M



SCRUB UP
Wash bag, £21.99,
Chase and Wonder



LUXELOOK
iPad cover, £12,
Sainsbury's



SMELLS GOOD
Rameaux D'Hiver
candle, £15,
L'Occitane



FRAME IT
Classic Elegance
pearlised oval
frame, £3.99,
Dunelm



COSY UP
Linea faux-fur
throw, £100,
House of Fraser



FINE VINTAGE
Jewellery box,
£28, Oliver Bonas



COLOUR CODE
LSA Polka champagne
saucers, £30 for four,
Houseology



SEW GOOD
Rose & Butler
sewing machine,
£60, Debenhams

HI-TECH

Multi-dock by Sebastian Conran, £45, John Lewis

KEEP SNUG

Slipper boots, £19.50, Marks & Spencer

MIX IT IN

Crosley Cruiser retro turntable, £79.99, Argos

OPEN UP

Top 10 book, £3.99, HomeSense

GREAT VALUE!

CHIC STYLE

Howick Harris travel wallet, £35, House of Fraser

SAY CHEESE

Vivitar Pro Action camera, £59.99, Maplin

BE ON TIME

Karlsson alarm clock, £17.50, Red Candy

for HIM

Make your man smile with gadgets and goodies

SPORTS FAN

Tjenis sports bag, £15, Ikea

WATER BREAK

Bottle, £15, Snapdragon

FOOD LOVER

Jamie Oliver pasta machine, £45, Debenhams

SEE THE WORLD

World tablet case, £6.95, Dotcomgiftshop

ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Beard oil kit, £24.99, Lone Woods at Etsy

BRIGHT IDEA

Flexitorch, from £9.99, JML

SNOW CUTE

Polar bear sweater, £30, Next



FANCY A CUPPA?
Wedgwood tea infuser, £40, Amara



CRACKING IDEA
Emma Bridgewater polka dot egg cups, £30 for three, House of Fraser



HOT STUFF
Ashley blanket, £45, Aspace



ON DISPLAY
Accordion vase, £27, Within Home



CRAFT HOUR
Knit your own cushion set, £25, Marks & Spencer

SNACK TIME
Tea Lover's hamper, £19.95, House of Bath



STAY WARM
Faux-fur hot-water bottle, £22.50, White Stuff



COME ON IN
Penguin doormat, £8, Next



FESTIVE FRAGRANCE
Sandy Bay mini reed diffusers, £25 for three, QVC



FOR FOODIES



GO GREEN
Garden Tidy gift set, £16.99, The Oak Room

SEEING CLEARLY
Blue Tits glasses case, £4.95, Dotcomgiftshop



BUNNY LOVE
Rabbit hanky set, £14.95, Thornback & Peel



STYLISH SET
Made with love ballet slipper set, £10, George Home



DOG'S LIFE
Sausage dog draught excluder, £40, Cath Kidston

HOW CHEESY!

Gray & Willow marble cheese board with dome, £55, House of Fraser



MAKE MEMORIES

Love photo frame, £1, Poundland



STAR QUALITY

Tealight holders, £20 for two, Next



CREATE A GLOW

Lantern, £4, Tesco Direct



WORD ART

Letter Press magnets, £10, Imperial War Museums



LIGHT AS A...

Feather cheese knives, £35 for three, Laura Ashley



for COUPLES

Share the love with presents they'll both enjoy

QUESTION TIME

Pub quiz game, £17, Oliver Bonas



MUG LOVE

His and Hers mugs, £5 each, John Lewis



MAKE A TOAST!

Silver Fade flute, £4, Sainsbury's



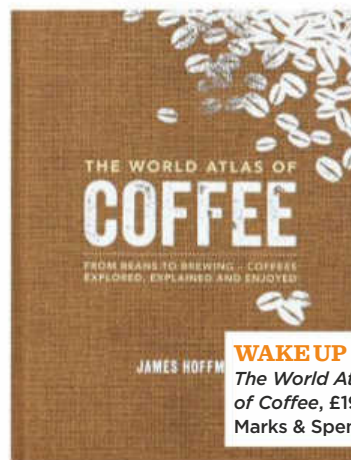
BERRY GOOD

Nutri Blitzer, £79.99, JML



WAKE UP

The World Atlas of Coffee, £19.50, Marks & Spencer



MOOD LIGHTING

Heart of House Cruz crystal glasses table light, £39.99, Argos



SHARE IT

Christmas wreath, £42, Hotel Chocolat





COOKUP A STORM
Sebra play kitchen,
£149, Houseology



DRESS UP
Play dino
rider outfit,
£15, Wilko



MAKE SHAPES
Retro pattern dough
rolling pin, £3,
The Dotty Dough
Factory at Etsy



LET IT ROLL
Draw on me balance
bike, £99.99, Noton
thehighstreet.com



ROCKIN' AROUND
Personalised
Royal rocking
chair, £55,
John Lewis



DEER ME
Reindeer hat,
£6, Next



GAME ON
Pie face
game,
£19.99,
Hasbro



CARRY IT
Mr Badger mini
backpack, £9.95,
Dotcomgiftshop



TUCK ME IN
Hot-water bottle
with panda, £48,
The Fine Cotton
Company

BUNNY LOVE
REX rabbit night
light, £7.29,
Smallable



A STITCH IN TIME
Travel sewing
machine, £12.99,
The Oak Room



POP IN THE BED



TAKE FLIGHT
Ride on rocket, £95,
The White Company



EARN YOUR SPIKES
3D Scootersaurus
helmet, £34.95,
Micro Scooters

CAMP OUT
Secret Garden
wigwam, £85,
Great Little
Trading Co



CALL ME
iPhone case,
£8, Paperchase



SAY IT IN STYLE
You Rock cushion, £39,
Out There Interiors

**COOL
LOOK**



CAPTURE IT
Xmas selfie stick,
£1, Poundland



LET'S RACE
Radio-controlled
Mini Cooper,
£20, Halfords



**PURPLE
HAZE**
Pip jewellery
tree, £16.25,
ZiggiZiggi.com



**THE X
FACTOR**
Singing
karaoke
machine,
£59.99,
Amazon



REWIND TIME
Cassette tape memo
board, £22, The
Contemporary Home



ALL GOLD
Glitter lava
lamp, £25,
John Lewis



GO PARTY!
Ghetto blaster-
style speaker,
£52.65, Smallable



**ONCE
YOU POP**
Elegento
popcorn
cart, £25,
Tesco Direct



RIVER DANCE
Bluetooth water
dancing speakers,
£30, Debenhams



LISTEN UP
B&O Play Form 2i
headphones, £109, Very



MAP IT OUT
Chalkboard
globe, £15,
Sainsbury's

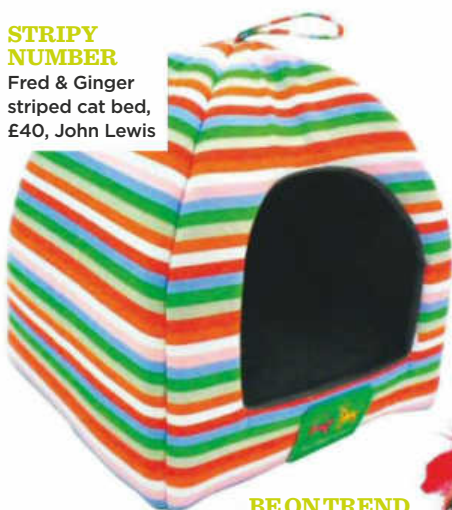


HANG IT
Wall art, £59,
Oliver Bonas



STRIPY NUMBER

Fred & Ginger striped cat bed, £40, John Lewis



SMARTLOOK

Bow Wow dog bow tie, £22.95, Love My Dog



PLAYTIME

Santa cat teaser, £1, Poundland



FEED ME

Dog bowl, £28, Fenella Smith for the Dogs Trust



JUMPIN

Dog jumper, from £8, Next



BE ON TREND

Neon twist dog collar by Ike and Stella, £40, Lead The Walk



ROLL OVER

Grinz treat ball, £5.99, Dogs Trust Gifts



OTHER PRINTS TO PICK



for PETS

Find the purr-fect treat for your furry friends

LAST POST

Postbox peanut feeder by Garden Bazaar, £29.99, PetsPyjamas.com



DOG'S DINNER

Food tray, £19.95, Notonthehigh street.com



BE GOOD

Cat treat jar, £10, Bhs

EAT UP

I Heart Santa munchy bones, £3, Pets at Home



POP IT

Dog toy bubbles, £2, Wilko



CIRCUS ACT

Ferplast circus hamster cage, £40, Amazon



TIME TO SNOOZE

Fatboy The Doggielounge dog bed, £61.95, Houseology





THREETONE

Geo-notebook,
£4.95, Ohh Deer



ONE IN A MILLION

Name a star,
£10, Very



REDHOT

Stag head travel
mug, £3.99,
Homebase



CHICSTYLE

Quote cards,
£4, Matalan

HEATUP

Hand warmer,
£8, Paperchase



TWITTWOO

Birds of Britain
coasters, £6.99,
The Oak Room



CHALKIT

Mini blackboard with chalk,
£4.95, Dotcomgiftshop

WRITE
THEM A
NOTE



FESTIVEFUN

Seasonal photo booth,
£3.50, Tesco Direct



GET PERSONAL

Slogan pencils,
£4, La La Land



ON THE BALL

Juggling
balls, £6, Marks
& Spencer



FRAME IT

Scalloped photo
frame, £10, Next



FEET FIRST

Elle Navy Fairisle
socks, £8, House
of Fraser



FUNNY LOOKS

Face mats,
£3, Wilko



DRINKUP

Beer crate, £1,
Poundland

HILLARYS

Make a window. Make a room.



Tier-on-tier shutters

Transform your windows into the focal point of your home with made-to-measure window dressings from Hillarys. We've a wide range of designs to choose from, all in a wonderful array of colours and styles – so whatever your taste, we'll have something to suit. To really add that 'wow' factor, choose from our wonderful collection of shutters. Crafted to your exact requirements and made from the finest materials, they'll create a luxurious look that will truly stand the test of time.



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STYLE SCHOOL *Part 4*

Easy guide TO PAINT LIKE A PRO

From picking the perfect palette to expertly applying it, here's everything you need to know about paint

There's a lot more to painting than simply selecting your favourite shade from a colour chart. From learning how to decorate and what tools to use, to trying out the latest paint effects and understanding different finishes. Knowing how to choose your colours and prepare your surfaces sufficiently will ensure you get a professional finish on a DIY budget. We've broken down all the facts and shared some on-trend inspirational imagery, so you've got everything you need to get your walls and woodwork looking tip-top.

MIX IT UP
Lime Cloud; Ceramic Blue; Mistflower; Ocean Blue, and Ocean Spray, all £19 per ltr, Sanderson

You will learn

- * Tools of the trade
- * What paint products to use
- * Different paint finishes
- * How to prep difficult surfaces
- * Which area to paint first
- * Steps to paint a ceiling
- * How to create paint effects
- * Which colours work together >>

Getting STARTED

Think you're ready to redecorate? Work your way through these pointers first

Colour (even if you're using neutral shades) should be the first thing to consider when starting to redecorate. Ensure your chosen hues work well by applying testers of paint onto sheets of white paper, then tacking them onto each wall you're thinking of using that colour on.

Leave them up for a few days before making any final decisions, paying attention to how the light affects the

colour at different times of day, as well as checking whether they work well next to other elements, such as your curtains or sofas. If you're not confident when it comes to choosing a scheme, go with a pre-selected palette already picked out by the paint brand you're using, or follow our advice about working with tonal, harmonising and contrasting colours.

Do the maths

Once you've chosen a scheme, calculate what quantities of paint you'll need by measuring the areas you plan to paint. Remember to deduct the width x height of areas that won't be painted, such as windows or doors, then add everything up to provide your total surface area. Different paint types and surfaces will require varied quantities but the rule of thumb is that a litre of paint should cover around 12 square metres per coat.

Prepare the space

Next, get your room ready by clearing it out. Pack away any small items or valuables and store them elsewhere, along with curtains or blinds. Move any bulky furniture into the centre of the room before covering them, and your floors, with dust sheets. Now you're ready to begin prepping your surfaces.

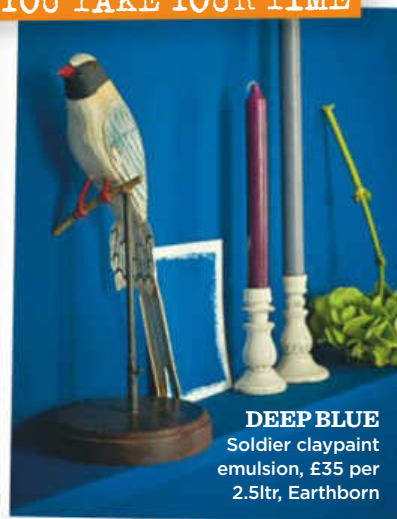
COORDINATE
Use a colour card, like this one from Little Greene, to choose your hues



THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GOOD AND BAD PAINT JOB USUALLY DEPENDS ON HOW CAREFULLY YOU PREPARE THE SURFACE – SO MAKE SURE YOU TAKE YOUR TIME

What you will need

- * Tape measure
- * Dust sheets
- * Polyfilla
- * Filling knife
- * Cleaning cloth
- * Sugar soap (or soapy water)
- * Paint kettle
- * Fine grit sandpaper
- * 2" wide paintbrush
- * Roller with tray
- * White spirit
- * Low-tack masking tape



DEEP BLUE
Soldier claypaint emulsion, £35 per 2.5ltr, Earthborn

Update your ceiling pendant so it complements your palette



HOME
is wherever
I'M WITH YOU.



Stylists at Home



HANNAH SAYS
'Before choosing colour palettes I always create a mood board to help make sure my chosen hues will work with my existing furniture and accessories.'

TWO TONE

Blue Clay; Airline
Blue emulsion,
both £19 per ltr,
Sanderson

**SPLIT IT**

Cherished
Gold; Sundust;
Lucky Penny,
all £24.99 per
2.5ltr, Dulux

**BOLD BLOCKS**

Chalkboard paint, £27
per ltr; Berry Gelato;
Kernel of Truth, both
£25.98 per 2.5ltr,
all Valspar at B&Q

**PREPPING SURFACES**

Before you begin, follow these important steps

★ **FILL IN GAPS** Small holes and hairline cracks on walls and ceilings can be filled effectively with Polyfilla, then simply sanded and painted over when completely dry. Try Polycell Polyfilla, £12.04 per 2.5ltr, B&Q.

★ **SMOOTH FINISH** For surfaces that are particularly uneven, try a specialist product such as Polycell Smoothover, £24.99 per 2.5ltr, Homebase, which can hide ridges and bumps that are up to 4mm deep.

★ **STAIN REMOVAL** If you have problems with discolouring from a previous leak or damp issue, make sure you apply a good stain-blocking paint to stop it from bleeding back through.

★ **SAND IT DOWN** If woodwork has been previously painted, a light sanding should suffice. However, if there are a few layers of paint and it's particularly thick, it might benefit from being completely stripped off using a hot gun for a better finish.

★ **PREPARE WOODWORK** Bare timbers with knots will need a knotting solution to prevent the sap seeping through to your top coat. Try the Colron wood knotting solution, £9.98 for 125ml, B&Q, which also prevents discolouration. Finish with an all-in-one primer and undercoat.

Stylish, easy-to-use tools Make your DIY simple with these smart accessories

**BRUSH UP**

Keep paintbrushes clean and prolong their lifespan with a handy ProComb, £5.99, Lucas. It's designed with a thumb indent for easy removal.

**THINK PINK**

A synthetic brush set, £2.66 for three, Silverline Tools, is inexpensive so means you don't have to wash up between colours – just use a new brush!

**ROLL ALONG**

Good-quality rollers will help you get an even coverage. Harris 9" roller frame, £3.50; 9" medium-pile woven sleeve, £2.50, both House of Fraser.

**KEEP IT CLEAN**

A chunky, hardwearing cotton cloth is invaluable for wiping down walls and ensuring they're dust free, £4.50, Dyke & Dean. ➤

OPEN UP

London Lights;
Sweet Neroli,
both £21.98 per
2.5ltr; Rose
Sherbet; Cat's
Pyjamas, both
£25.98 per 2.5ltr,
all Valspar at B&Q

Use pastels for
a bright, trendy
look that makes
a statement



COSYNOOK

Graphite,
£35.50 per 2.5ltr,
Fired Earth



SKYHIGH
Gingham clayspaint
emulsion, £35 per
2.5ltr, Earthborn

Get prepped for PAINTING

Learn to use the right products, and apply them in the best way, for a flawless finish

Choosing the right type of paint is just as important as selecting a colour, so do your research rather than just reaching for the tin. Walls and ceilings require emulsion, though this comes in a choice of finishes.

Matt emulsions give a modern, chalky look and are more forgiving on uneven walls or in period properties, whereas low sheen or satin emulsions have light-reflecting qualities and are good for rooms with limited natural light. When it comes to woodwork and metal, eggshell paint is a popular choice due to its delicate matt

appearance, though for high-traffic areas, gloss can offer the most durable finish.

Finishing touches

Chalk and clay-based paints for walls and wood offer a chalky, authentically aged finish and although they can be more expensive per litre than standard paints, they go a lot further, so you may not need to buy as much. Professionals work from top to bottom, starting with the ceiling before moving onto the walls and then the woodwork, so they can neaten up any paint that may have splattered at the end.

**FRESHFEEL**

Delicacy; Ice
Cascade; French
Lilac Lt, all £19
per ltr, Sanderson

Cleaning and storing brushes and rollers

Many paints these days are water-based, meaning brushes and rollers can simply be rinsed clean with some warm, soapy water followed by a clear water rinse. You may have to repeat the process, if necessary. However oil-based paints will need soaking with white spirit first to remove all the paint before they can be rinsed off. Once cleaned, shake off any excess water, wrap the brush in its natural shape in newspaper, and store upright until dry.

HOW TO PAINT LIKE A PRO

Easy-to-follow tips for a problem-free paint job

★ HOW TO PAINT A CEILING

Once your ceiling is prepped, clean and dry, remove or mask off any light fittings, then begin 'cutting in' (painting around fixtures and room edges) with a brush. Allow the paint to overlap onto the walls by around an inch, to help provide a neat finish when you come to paint them, too. Fill in the bulk of the ceiling with a roller, fitting it with an extension handle to save making multiple trips up and down a ladder.

★ HOW TO PAINT WALLS

With your ceiling painted and dry, move on to your walls. Use the same technique of cutting in with your brush to begin, starting at the top, keeping a steady hand and moving along edges in a straight line (holding the brush at a 90° angle can help with this). Allow your emulsion to overlap onto your unpainted woodwork slightly - this will help you get crisp lines when you paint the wood afterwards. Move onto covering the main body of the wall with

a roller, ensuring you don't overload it, adding more coats later if required. For tricky-to-access areas such as behind radiators, invest in an extended roller with a narrow sleeve.

★ HOW TO PAINT WOOD

Once the walls are dry, it's time to paint the woodwork. If you haven't got a steady hand, apply low-tack masking tape on finished surfaces. Brush the woodwork, allowing the paint to go partially onto the tape, then remove when the paint is dry.

**LOOKUP**

Pure Brilliant
white; Delicious
Pink, both
£25.99 per 2.5ltr,
Crown Paints

CUT DOWN ON WASHING TOOLS BY TIGHTLY WRAPPING BRUSHES, ROLLERS AND TRAYS IN CLINGFILM WHEN NOT IN USE - IT WILL STOP THEM FROM DRYING OUT

Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS
'Natural and artificial light have a big impact on how your paint colour looks. By using white undercoat you'll achieve a better match to the colour chart, plus you'll need fewer coats.'

Handy apps to help you decorate

Calling all tech-savvy decorators! Design assistance is just a smartphone away



JOHNSTONE'S COLOURMATE

Free
Choose a hue and hold it up against your wall. If you've got a colour in mind, the app will find a close match.



DULUX VISUALISER

Free
View Dulux's colours in situ, by 'painting' each shade onto the area of the room via your screen.



CROWN PAINTS MYROOM PAINTER

Free
Select from room images and apply colour from the Crown range, so you can see them in different situs.



SCREWFIX TOOLBOX

Free
Use its materials calculator to estimate the paint quantities needed for your room - it can calculate flooring, too.



COLOR WHEEL

Free
Play around with colour schemes and learn which shades work well together. Then share your palette on social media. ➡

Get creative PAINT EFFECTS

Unleash your inner artist with these simple but stylish paint techniques

Paint effects are back in fashion. A cheaper option than wallpapering, they can be surprisingly easy to produce. A good place to start is with a simple stripe – paint your wall in a base colour, then measure out and mask off your stripes with masking tape.

For a crisp line, paint a little of your base colour over the masking tape and let dry before adding the contrasting colours. Using the same technique, try out other shapes. For something more organic, leave off the tape and paint loose lines.

The same approach can be applied to create an ombre wall – using a lighter colour above and a darker beneath. Work with an almost-dry angled brush to blend the tones. Or, add interest with a patterned roller, to create the appearance of wallpaper.

LAYERIT

Airline Blue; New Bonton; New Boy Blue; Blue Clay; New Bonton, all £19 per ltr, Sanderson

Give cabinets a modern update with a zingy coat of paint

MAKE SURE YOU TEST OUT ANY EXPERIMENTAL PAINT EFFECTS ON A PIECE OF LINING PAPER BEFORE COMMITTING TO YOUR WALLS

PAINT YOUR FURNITURE

Give tired furnishings a new lease of life

★ WHY DO IT?

Painting furniture is often the quickest, easiest and most effective way to totally transform its appearance.

★ BE PREPARED

Wood and metal paints work well on most interior furniture, but make sure you carry out any groundwork. Sand and clean each piece, then apply

a primer and undercoat suitable for that material.

★ MAKE LIFE SIMPLE

Alternatively, try out a chalk paint, which can be applied to pretty much any surface and gives a characterful, imperfect finish. Chalk paint doesn't require a primer, but it does need a coat of wax afterwards to protect it.

SUNNY DELIGHT

Spotlight; City Break, both £18.47 per 2.5ltr; Tibetan Gold, £13.92 per 750ml, all Crown Paints



CANDY CRUSH

Lemon Mivvi,
Cupboard Green;
Spear-mint; Milk
Thistle; Grace, all
£37 per 2.5ltr;
Little Greene



Q Grey walls are still a big decorating trend – how can I use them without making my room feel dark and dull?

Grey hues are very versatile – from cool off-whites to warmer mid-tones, and deep, mysterious shades. They have more texture than black, are more forgiving than a monochrome scheme, and provide the perfect backdrop for bright pops of colour, such as chartreuse or mint. Lighting and mirrors will help create a strong, atmospheric look.

GET IT RIGHT Q&A

Your questions answered

PURE METAL

Stunning silver metallic, £6 per 125ml, Dulux.
Copper metallic, £18.49 per 1.25ltr, Crown Paints

Q I'm keen to add elements of colour to my room but don't want to add a feature wall. What else can I do?

Try painting your woodwork in a contrasting or bright shade to stand out against plain walls – you could even paint your window frame a different colour to your skirting boards, which can look very effective when paired with blinds, as you can see the whole surround. For a modern look, try using a lighter or darker shade from the same tonal palette as your walls for a subtle finish. As an alternative to a feature wall, you could paint the lower section of your walls in a contrasting colour to the top.



Q I love the new metallic trend and want to bring it into my decor scheme – can you help?

Specialist paints like metallic or suede emulsions are great for creating a feature. Use on a whole wall or as an accent, adding stripes or pattern with a stencil. This creates a shimmery backdrop for layering in other metallic accessories.

Q What are tonal, harmonizing and contrasting colours and how should we use them within our decorating?

When grey is added to a colour it makes it deeper, whereas white makes it lighter, so we use the word tonal to explain the variation of light and dark tones of a particular colour. Using tonal colours in decorating gives a subtly coordinated look. Harmonizing is when we blend similar colours and tones, in particular those that lie next to each other on the colour wheel. This creates calm, restful rooms. Complementary and contrasting colours are those that sit opposite each other on the colour wheel, say red and green or yellow and purple. Using these together makes much stronger, powerful schemes.

Your questions answered by Judy Smith, Crown Colour Consultant >>



Stylists at Home

**ANGELA SAYS**

'You can use paint to create your own piece of art. Just pick up a canvas (or group together a few smaller ones) and paint a design that ties in with your scheme.'

Perfect PALETTE

How to decorate with tonal, harmonious or contrasting colours

TONAL PAINTS

Create a subtle, coordinated scheme

SEA GREEN

Duck Egg; Emerald, both Any Room One Coat emulsion, £19.84 per 2.5ltr, Colours by B&Q



MOODY & ATMOSPHERIC

Mott; Bowery Blue emulsion, both £33 per 2.5ltr, Abigail Ahern



SOSWEET

Pastel Pink; Fuchsia Blush silk emulsion, both £9 per 2.5ltr, George Home

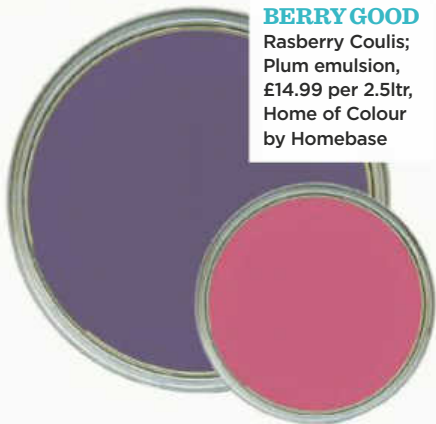


HARMONISING PAINTS

Blend tones and colours for a peaceful look

BERRY GOOD

Raspberry Coulis; Plum emulsion, £14.99 per 2.5ltr, Home of Colour by Homebase



FEEL EXOTIC

Keralan Spice; Medina Wall deep emulsion, both £33 per 2.5ltr, Mr & Mrs Smith At Home



MAKE IT LAST

Versailles; Duck Egg Blue chalk paint, £18.95 per ltr, Annie Sloan

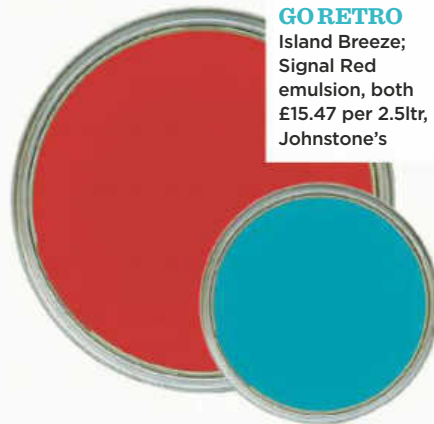


CONTRASTING PAINTS

Be bold and choose a powerful palette

GO RETRO

Island Breeze; Signal Red emulsion, both £15.47 per 2.5ltr, Johnstone's



TIME TO FRESHEN UP

Grape; Pastel Green emulsion both £12 per 2.5ltr, Wilko



BRING IN BLUE

Citrine; Old Navy emulsion, both £16 per 2.5ltr, Next



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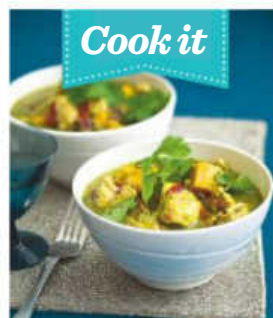
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See how
Caryn gave her
guest bathroom a
stylish, sleek look

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Lizzie Hudson, Acting Editor

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It could be designer...

CARNIVAL LETTERS

Try your hand at creating a luxury lookalike for a fraction of the cost

Get your home ready for the New Year's Eve party season with a set of quirky light-up letters inspired by the vintage alphabet lights from Amara. We've gone for a distressed, metallic finish, but why not experiment with other colours depending on your scheme?

TAKES 3HRS COST £48.75

* 22cm wood letters, £3 each, Hobbycraft
* Metallic paint in Copper and Steel, £9.39 each, Liberon * 3 x retro bulb battery fairy lights, £6.99 each, lights4fun * 16mm drill & bit * 10 x rubber 0.5" washers per letter * Ruler & pencil * Cinnamon * Paintbrush * Stencil brush * Clear glue

1 Using a pencil and ruler, mark the positions of each bulb on the letters. Use a 16mm drill bit to make holes on each pencil mark. Paint two layers of copper paint on the letters, drying between coats. Stipple the steel paint in random patches over each letter, and, while it's still wet, sprinkle a small amount of cinnamon on the paint for a rust effect. Leave to dry.

2 Unscrew a bulb from the lights, push the metal cuff through one hole, then replace the bulb. With scissors, make a cut across the radius of a washer, then open it up and wrap it around the cable at the base of the bulb cuff. Repeat with all bulbs. Apply glue to the outer edge at the back of the washer and gently push in place to cover the hole and hold the bulb in securely.

**LESS
THAN
£49**

**SPLASH
OUT**
Vintage
letter
alphabet
light, £300,
Amara



Choose letters that
spell out your name
or a fun phrase



SHELF LIFE

Lack wall shelf, £10, Ikea.
Concrete vase with gold dipped
glaze, £14, Home Candy



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Handmake unique presents for loved ones
by upcycling furniture and accessories

GLITZY JAM JARS

Easy to make
and the perfect
gift for a friend



Ribbon shaggy
champagne rug,
£45, Wilko. Green
chenille blanket,
£39.99, Zara Home

TAKES 30MINS COST £3.79

✱ Clean glass jars ✱ PVA glue ✱ Sequin string, £1.49 for 10m, eBay ✱ Berisfords double-faced 12mm satin ribbon in light pink, £2.30 for 5m, Hobbycraft

1 With the jar upside down, brush PVA glue onto the lower third of it. Starting from the bottom, wrap the sequin string around the jar, sticking in place.

2 Continue to wrap the string around the jar until you have covered all the glass, applying more PVA glue up the jar as you go. Once you reach the neck, cut the string and smooth down the end. Tie the ribbon around the neck of the jar to finish.



Tuscan table runner,
£20, John Lewis. Party
Time napkins, £3.50
for 20, Talking Tables

**COSTS
UNDER
£10**



GILDED CHAIR

Impress a family member with a unique seat

TAKES 2HRS COST £7.39

✱ Dining chair ✱ Plasti-Kote gold metallic spray paint, £7.39, Amazon ✱ Large scrap of fabric to cover seat pad ✱ Staple gun & fabric scissors ✱ Glue gun & iron

1 Gently remove the braid edging on the seat. Clean off any dirt and dust from the chair then, working outside on a dust sheet, spray with two coats of gold paint to cover the wooden frame. Allow

to dry between coats and don't worry if a little paint gets onto the seat fabric as this will be covered later.

2 Iron the large scrap of fabric and lay flat onto the seat. Use a staple gun to anchor the fabric along one edge, then hold the fabric to staple the opposite side. Repeat with the remaining two sides. Use the scissors to trim away the material about 5mm outside the staples, then use a glue gun to stick the original braid over the staples to conceal them.



Decorative storage baskets, £20 for two; Wild Mint candle, £22, both House of Fraser. Heart box, £12, The Contemporary Home

SURFACE STYLE



SUITCASE TRAY

A special friend will love this handmade vanity tray



TAKES 2HRS COST £11

* Old wooden suitcase * Fabric scissors * Visage Textiles dusky pink fat quarters, £7 for six, Hobbycraft * Mod Podge, £4, Hobbycraft * Bradawl & paintbrush * Cup handles & small screws * Tape measure

1 Separate the two halves of the suitcase by removing the hinges, then cut out lining. Measure the width of the lid plus the distance you want the fabric to go up the sides, and cut fat quarters to strips of this size. Lay the fabric onto the lid and decide how wide you want each piece to be (add a 2cm overlap), then cut to size.

2 Cover the base and sides of lid with Mod Podge and position the first piece of fabric at one end. Smooth and add more strips until covered. Brush a protective layer of Mod Podge over the inside lid and leave to dry. Measure the centre point on the outside edges of the tray then attach cup handles using a bradawl and screws.

THIS TRAY IDEA CREATES A NICE FOCAL PIECE, SO TRY TO KEEP IT NEAT AND UNCLUTTERED

FLORAL CANDLES

Make ordinary candles personal to a pal with gorgeous pink flowers



TAKES 30MINS COST £7.70

* Fenomen candles, £4 for five, Ikea * Truly Scrumptious paper napkins, £3.70 for 30, Talking Tables * Scissors * Tealight * Large metal spoon

1 Carefully cut around the flowers on the napkin, then separate the layers, keeping only the thin floral layer. Hold a spoon over the lit tealight with the upper surface next to the flame to heat up.

2 Hold a paper flower in your chosen position on the surface of the candle and use the bottom of the heated spoon to rub over the flower. The hot metal will melt enough wax to make the flower stick. Keep adding flowers to the candle to achieve your desired look.

Never leave a lit candle unattended.

UNIQUE TOUCH



Hammered gold tray, £45, Oliver Bonas. Gold sequin cushion, £15, Sainsbury's. Decoris glass bowl, £5, John Lewis



Subscribe to *Style at Home* at magazinesdirect.com/CLP5 for lots more craft ideas straight to your door.

Get creative with GIFT WRAP

Make your Christmas presents extra special this year when you try our inspired ideas to give them real wow factor!

BRIGHT
IDEA

Add a little something to your gift wrap to give it a more personal feel. Whether you make it from scratch, such as our quirky chalkboard idea, or simply embellish existing papers, these crafty projects will get your creative juices flowing!

PRETTY BOWS

Embellish gifts with these simple DIY paper bows

★ Blue spot gift wrap, £3.50 for 2m, WHSmith ★ Glitter trees hot pink gift wrap, £8.99 for two rolls, WHSmith ★ Kraft pink flock wrap, £3.50 for 2m, Paperchase ★ 30 x 3cm strip of paper for the bow ★ Scissors & double-sided tape ★ Small scrap of coloured paper or ribbon to complete bow

- 1 Wrap your present in a paper of your choice and finish the edges with double-sided tape. Take the strip of paper and fold in half. Invert at the fold to form a heart. Fold the two long flaps of paper to crease at the bottom of the heart.
- 2 Flip over and stick a piece of double-sided tape along the bottom to secure the two flaps together. To finish, cut a small scrap of coloured paper to attach to the middle of the bow and stick in place.

CHALKBOARD STYLE

Personalise gifts with this freehand technique

✱ Black paper roll, £2 for 4m, Hobbycraft ✱ Uniball white marker pen, £2.50, Hobbycraft ✱ Scissors & double-sided tape

1 Wrap your gift neatly in black paper and secure with double-sided tape. Take a piece of scrap paper and practise illustrating your festive message

with the marker pen until you're happy with the final design for your presents.

2 When you feel confident, use the white marker pen to draw or write the design of your choice onto each present. Be careful not to smudge the ink as you work and leave to dry before embellishing with ribbon or bows.



CUSTOM MADE

Neon mini crackers, £6.50 for eight, Paperchase

LITTLE DETAILS

Baubles, £4 for 25; tags, £4.25 for 10; bows, £1.50 for three, all Paperchase. Neon acrylic stars, £8 for 10, Oliver Bonas



DOTTY DESIGN

Go for double-layered wrap for an added surprise element

✱ Bright tissue paper, £1.75 for 3 sheets; Kraft brown paper, £3 for 5m; raffia, £2.25 for 25m, all Paperchase ✱ Paper drill, £11.50, Sticky Tiger ✱ Scissors & double-sided tape ✱ Cutting mat

1 Wrap your gift in tissue paper and secure neatly with tape. On a cutting mat and using the paper drill, make holes across the brown paper. Wrap the piece of punched brown paper over the tissue paper, making sure the edges are neatly folded and secure in place with tape. Tie with coordinating raffia to finish off.



JAPANESE PLEATS

Try your hand at stylish origami

✱ Roll/sheets of gift wrap ✱ Sticky tape ✱ Scissors & double-sided tape

1 Cut a piece of wrapping paper approximately double the size needed to cover your present. With the paper facing down, fold a 2cm pleat along the short bottom edge. Fold the paper in on itself four more times. Flip the paper over and unfold so you can see the lines marking each fold.

2 Pinch the first line and fold it down to create a smaller pleat below. Repeat along each line so you have a series of small pleats. Turn the paper over and use a strip of tape to hold the pleats down. Now place your gift in the centre of the paper and pull the pleated edge to the top of the present. Continue to wrap as normal and complete with a length of pretty twine to decorate.

Style at Home asks...

Gift-wrapping guru Jane Means for her tips on making prezzies look fab

Q What are the essentials for a gift-wrap kit box?

Lots of double-sided tape and sharp scissors. I'm always on the lookout for ribbons and embellishments, too.

Q How do you use up leftover paper?

Small offcuts are perfect

for adding a luxurious band around a plain wrapped box. Just fold under the long edges and join with double-sided tape to secure in place.

Q Can brown paper make pretty wrap, too?

Brown paper gives a beautiful rustic feel. I often add raffia

and tie in dried oranges and cinnamon sticks at Christmas.

Q What are your favourite ways to embellish?

I love adding fresh or dried foliage, plus lots of ribbon and twine. Another idea is to use pre-loved brooches for an extra-special personal touch.



Head to janemeans.com and enter the code **STYLE15** for an exclusive 20% reader discount*.

Make your own PAPER CRACKERS

Decorate your Christmas table with our free downloadable crackers in three funky designs - it's a great project for the kids, too!

FREE
design

DOWNLOAD THE
TEMPLATE
TODAY!

Bring your festive styling bang up-to-date with a chic monochrome and neon colour palette. Simply download the free templates and make your very own set of stylish crackers.

HOW TO

TAKES 15MINS

- ★ *Style at Home* cracker template
- ★ Thin A4 card
- ★ Cutting mat
- ★ Ruler
- ★ Scalpel or scissors
- ★ Double-sided tape
- ★ Twine or ribbon

Print out your template on thin card and, working on a cutting mat, use a scalpel to trim away the edges. Cut around the dotted lines to remove the diamond shapes and roll the cracker into a cylinder. Stick the edges together with double-sided tape and push down the ends into a cracker shape. Tie with twine to finish.

EASY TEMPLATE

Choose from three stylish designs or mix and match!



Download your free templates and bonus printable patterned papers at cushienumber.co.uk/crackers

THAT'S A WRAP!

Silver & white twine, 27m for £2, Hobbycraft. Neon ribbon, from a selection, Paperchase

**PLUS, DOWNLOAD YOUR FREE BONUS PRINTABLE
PATTERNED PAPERS FOR MINI MAKES & WRAP!**

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH **Style**_{at Home}

'We gave it **A STYLISH NEW LOOK'**

Stylist at Home Caroline, 40, gave her tired living room a modern update with a fresh colour scheme and an exotic Moroccan twist

MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Caroline Norris, 40, a freelance event producer. I live with my husband, Tim, 50, a financial planner and hotel owner, Tim's daughter, Maya, 14, and my children, Stanley, 10, Ted, nine, and Ada, two. We moved into our 1950s five-bed house in Hampton two years ago and spent last year renovating it, including knocking down a dated conservatory to make way for a 50-metre extension, and converting a side building into a utility room.

MY CHALLENGE The living room is quite a small area. I wanted to make it as light and open as possible, while still being calm and cosy.

MY WISH LIST My plan was to create a relaxed adult space where Tim and I could chill out, decorated in a Moorish yet contemporary style.



FESTIVE FUN

'I'm thrilled with the fresh, modern look of the tree. I couldn't wait to find decs to match the scheme'



OUR
COVER
STAR!

GREAT IDEA

'Choose a Moroccan-style wallpaper in a fresh blue shade for a contemporary look'

TOTAL
£5,728
TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST



PICTURE THIS

'To get the perfect arrangement for lots of frames, measure the wall and lay them out onto the same-size area on the floor'

When we were searching for our first house to accommodate our combined family of six, we wanted somewhere with space to be together, but to have our own room for privacy, too,' says Caroline. 'Tim has a boutique hotel in Morocco, and as we both love its decor, we wanted to reflect that in our home, while creating a fresh, modern finish.'

The starting point

We began by looking for a wallpaper with a Moroccan feel to create a focal point on the fireplace wall. I searched online and called in samples. Eventually, we chose Farrow & Ball's Tessella pattern in turquoise as it's fresh and zingy, yet relaxing. But before we could put it up, some structural changes needed to be carried out.

We started with the messiest job installing the woodburner. After this, the windows in the alcoves were removed so we could utilise the space for shelving. I wanted the shelves to be chunky, and painted white to stand out against the wallpaper, and our carpenter, Mark Downs, did exactly that. We kept the rest of the room neutral for a clean, open feel. Lastly, the light-oak flooring was laid.

Once the decor was complete, our thoughts turned to furniture. We were after a Mid-Century-style sofa in a natural tone, so we could dress it up with cushions to change the look. We searched everywhere, then I found the Barbican sofas in John >>



GOLD SERVICE

'At Christmas time, I add glitzy touches like this mirrored tray from Marks & Spencer'



MIX IT UP

'For a bit of festive fun, mix Christmas ornaments in among your existing ones'



ON REFLECTION

'I adore the shape and design of this mirror, and it's such a contrast to the wallpaper'

GREAT IDEA

'Add metallic accessories for an ultra-glam finish'

'THE WOODBURNER IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT AND GIVES THE ROOM A FOCAL POINT. I LOVE HOW COSY AND SNUG IT MAKES IT FEEL IN THE COOLER MONTHS'

» Lewis, which were perfect. The coffee table came from Blue Suntree and it's a replica of the Vitra Noguchi table, which was designed for the president of the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1944.

Styling the room

I've loved putting the finishing touches in place. I found a selection of cushions and a chunky rug at John Lewis, which helped bring the turquoise hue into other areas of the room. We're recently married and we decided to get our photos framed professionally, and we've carefully arranged them on the white wall. Then I found some Moroccan-style accessories at Graham and Green along with a fabulous mirror with a gorgeous burnished gold effect. I've added other mixed-metal accessories to give the room a touch of glamour.

This will be our first Christmas with the space complete, so I've splashed out on some new decorations in white and turquoise to match the scheme, complete with red touches for a bit of festive fun.'



Check out our blog cushienumber.co.uk for even more affordable, must-have accessories.

Stylists at Home



JANE SAYS

'The silver and gold Christmas decorations and accessories look very glam and work well together, while the turquoise wallpaper gives a striking and fresh, modern look that I absolutely love.'

My shopping list

Tessella wallpaper, £85 per roll, Farrow & Ball. Walls painted in Pure Brilliant White emulsion, £20 per 10ltr, B&Q. Wide solid-oak flooring, £56 per sq m, The German Flooring Company. Menip 5 enamel white woodburner, £1,042, Zigis Fireplaces. Organic coffee table, £200, Blue Suntree. Barbican sofas in French Grey, £1,200 each; Jabali curtain in grey, £633.20 for W320 x D229cm; Pebbles rug in duck egg, £280, L180 x W120cm; cushions, £25 each; Hemingway Design for Royal Doulton vase, £30; cut-out hurricane lantern, from £25; 7ft Skye Snowy fir Christmas tree, £180; Midwinter Glass Drop baubles in red and white, £4 for 12, all John Lewis. Fringe mirror, £495; Tangier lantern, from £15.95 each; brass hurricane

lamp, £32; ceramic pineapple jar, £35; pleated vase, from £15 each; blue glass bottle, £19.95, all Graham and Green. Chevron cushion, £29.50; Deco tray, £35; Deco cocktail shaker, £17.50; Deco bar tools, £15 for two, all Marks & Spencer. 240 LEDs, £25; red star tree topper, £1, both Tesco Direct. Resin elephant, £10; wooden tree, £5; wooden star, £8; pack of 50 baubles, £5, all Wilko. Gift wrap, from £1.25 per sheet; satin ribbon, from £2 per roll, all Paperchase. Paper snowflake, £5.50 for 2; copper baskets, from £7.10; brass tealight holder, £18, all Liv Interior. Chevron cushions, £9.99 each, Next. Clear bauble, £3.99, Dobbies. Turquoise baubles, £4.58 for 18, Christmas Time UK. Snowberries and roses, Branching Out

Get Caroline's LIVING ROOM LOOK

Bring an exotic Middle Eastern flavour to your living space



RED STAR

Display simple accessories. Red decoration, medium, £12; large, £18, Nordic House



SHAPE UP

Make a statement above a fireplace. Vintage-style gold chain wall mirror, £149, The Farthing



EASTERN INFLUENCE

Add a feature wall. Omega Blue wallpaper by Albany Symmetry, £28 per roll, Wallpaper Direct



GO FOR A CHIC LOOK

SHOW OFF

Leave out on display or serve up drinks. Metal tray, £17.99, H&M



SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED

Make seasonal drinks. Ronin two-piece copper cocktail shaker, £24.99, DrinkStuff.com



FESTIVE TWIST

Add an exotic air to your tree. Elephant bauble, £5, The Contemporary Home



PRETTY PRINT

Look for interesting patterns. Imperial rug in Eau de Nil, from £165, Cox & Cox



ON FIRE!

Keep costs down by going electric. Auberry Opti-myst electric stove, £529.99, Dimplex



TOUCH OF SPARKLE

Create a cosy ambience. Ornate lanterns, small, £8.95; medium, £12.95; large, £24.95, Myakka

Create a HOME BAR

It's the party season, so get celebrating by having your own dedicated drinks station for guests

With the entertaining season upon us, it's time to crack open the drinks cabinet and dig out the cocktail shaker. Rather than routing around every time someone wants a drink, though, why not create your own bar area? Whether you're after an elegant champagne station with flutes and an ice bucket, or a cocktail corner, complete with umbrellas, have a think about where's best to locate it. You could even hang an LED 'Bar' sign above the area for a real party feel.

Reserve a corner for cocktails

If you've only a small nook or cranny available, then a tray table is a good choice. Pop your cocktail paraphernalia on top, plus some nibbles, and add fairy lights to spruce it up for Christmas. Tray table, £35; champagne saucers, £7 for two; Lustre flute, £10 for two; cocktail shaker, £12; margarita glass, £8 for two; ice bucket, £15, all Tesco Direct



Bit on the side

Not all of us have room for an extra piece of furniture, but clearing a sideboard to make way for a small drinks station is an ideal solution. Ruark R7 all-in-one music system, £2,000, John Lewis



Keep it moving

What could be handier than a trolley on castors to wheel your drinks between rooms? Gold, copper and brass designs are bang on trend this season. We love this 1920s-style design, which will look great in a dining or living room year-round. Luxe drinks trolley with marble top, £350, Oliver Bonas



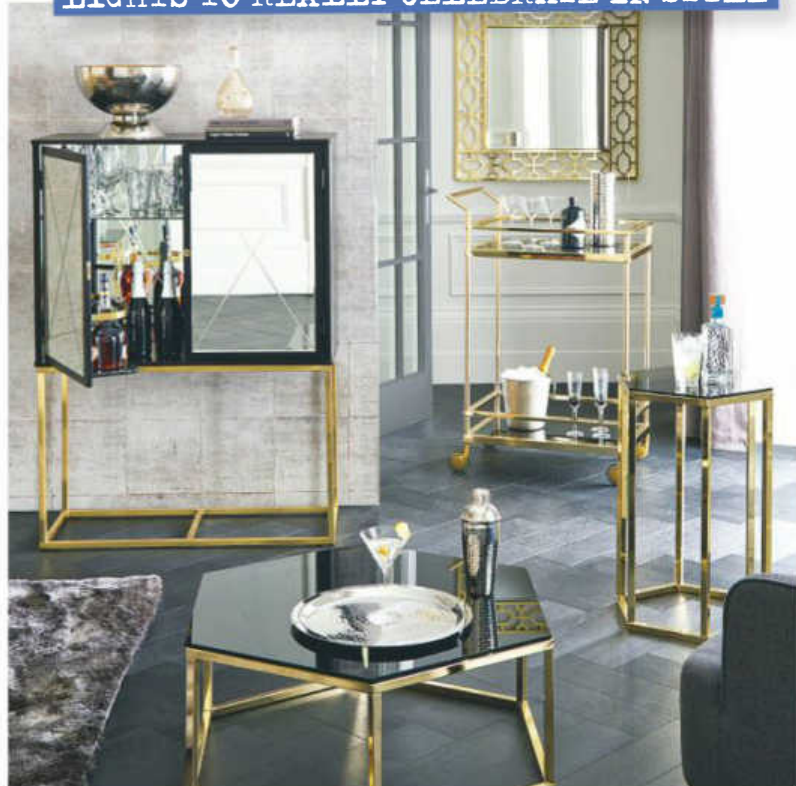
Add some flair

Place wine and bubbly on a tray or in an ice bucket to group them together. You can then carry this into a room once guests have arrived, complete with some sparklers, for a true celebratory feel. Party Porcelain gold ice fountains, £5 for three, Talking Tables

2016



MAKE AN EYE-CATCHING DISPLAY AROUND YOUR BAR AREA WITH BALLOONS AND FAIRY LIGHTS TO REALLY CELEBRATE IN STYLE



Stylists at Home



HANNAH SAYS

'Creating your own home bar can be a great upcycling project. Pick up a retro TV, take out the screen and insides and place on a side table stocked with your favourite tipples and glasses.'

Invest in a showstopper

Display barware in style by splashing out on a larger piece of furniture like this Art Deco-inspired cabinet. Use it to house drinks and glasses inside and accessories on top.

Carraway drinks cabinet in grey, £599, Marks & Spencer

BAR ZONE IDEAS

Do it

Go for a party feel

If you fancy yourself as a bit of a mixologist, then don't forget those all-important accessories. Party animals, party parasols and glitter jar, from £5, all Talking Tables



Behind closed doors

If you'd rather keep alcohol out of view from little ones, go for a cabinet. This statement piece has mirrored doors and a brass-effect base, to add glamour to your room.

Hex drinks cabinet, £450; coffee table, £199; trolley, £159; side table, £125, all Next



For more ideas on creating entertaining areas in your home, go to [pinterest.com/styleathomemag](https://www.pinterest.com/styleathomemag) today!

STYLISH BUYS *for a*

Enjoy a truly special celebration by giving your Christmas dining table a

Frosty blue



RIGHTFUL PLACE

Bring some glitz to the meal. Silver placemats, £10 for four, DEBENHAMS



FINE DINING

Create a sophisticated look. Sketch floral 12-piece dinner set, £35, SAINSBURY'S

Opulent gold



GOLDEN CIRCLES

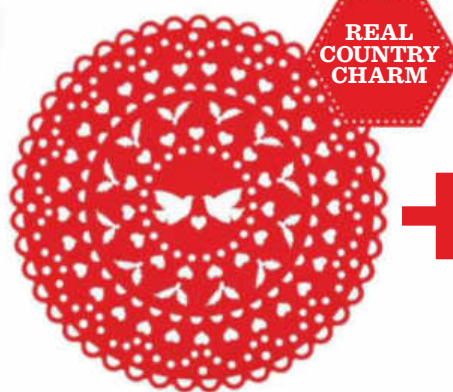
Set a sparkling table. Placemat, £10; beaded coaster £10 for four, DEBENHAMS



GILT-EDGED BEAUTY

Invest in classy crockery. Jasper Conran dinnerware, from £16, HOUSEOLOGY

Festive red



REAL COUNTRY CHARM

PERFECT PATTERN

Inject a hint of Scandi style. Red placemats, £15 for four, MARKS & SPENCER



STANDOUT STYLE

Go for instant impact. Reactive 12-piece dinner set, £50, SAINSBURY'S

perfect party

fabulous makeover with our trio of top picks



Hit the shops! Head to theroomedit.com for more great high-street buys for every room in your home.



SPARKLE & SHINE

Finish each place setting. Set of six luxury crackers, £10, SAINSBURY'S



DRINK UP

Sip your favourite tippie. Blue wine glasses, £4.99 each, KITCHEN CRAFT



SILVER FIRS

Place an eye-catching centrepiece. Silver tree ornament, £10, NEXT

TOTAL
£70



WHAT A CRACKER

Give your guests a treat. Six dinner crackers, £7, SAINSBURY'S



PUTTING ON THE GLITZ

Finish your table beautifully with dipped gold glasses. Set of four for £38, MIA FLEUR



ALL THAT GLITTERS

Bring a whimsical touch to your decor. Bell jar house ornament, £15, BHS

TOTAL
£96



FEELING DOTTY

Bring some joy to the table. Luxury crackers, £20 for 12, DEBENHAMS



CHINK CHINK

Serve mulled wine in style. Red and white glasses, £2 each, GEORGE HOME



REIN IT IN

Add a fun finishing touch. Flocked red stag, £4, WILKO

TOTAL
£91



FLOWER POWER

'I was pottering around in a local department store and saw this bedding, marked down to just £10.99! It's my best bargain'

MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Su Kingsley, 65, and I live with my partner Owen Henry, 69, in a three-bedroom 1920s semi-detached house in Ewell, Surrey, which we moved into in 2012.

MY CHALLENGE Taking control of a master bedroom that neither of us had any desire to sleep in – it had no character, no storage, a grubby carpet and flimsy curtains.

MY WISH LIST I needed somewhere to put all my clothes and shoes away neatly, plus extra storage for books and bits and pieces not on display. I also wanted proper lighting so I could read in bed, curtains that don't let in the light, warm wooden flooring, some colour, and a fun element to make us smile.



GREAT IDEA

'Instead of wallpaper, why not try a mural? They're no more expensive, and you can let your imagination run wild'

NATURAL CHOICE

'Our wonderful mural of a birch forest is a daily tonic and makes it feel bright and airy in here'



'It feels like SPRING EVERY DAY!'

Need a new bedroom look?

Follow the example of *Stylist at Home* Su, 65, who made her space fun with a forest-themed mural

We moved into our three-bedroom house from a second-floor flat three years ago as we liked the idea of a big garden and more space for all our clutter,' says Su. 'Plus we wanted a separate music room as I play the violin and viola, and hold string quartet sessions at home.'

Finding our home

Owen really wanted a library/den and we needed more space for guests. We found bigger properties in cheaper areas, but the village feel and garden here won us over. The house is a good size, and there were lots of improvements we could make. Since moving in, we've converted the old kitchen into a music room, turned the garage into our new kitchen, and put in a sun room. With the downstairs done, we began renovating upstairs.

Making plans

From the beginning it was obvious what room should be the master bedroom, as this one is the largest, overlooks the garden at the back of the house, and also has an en suite. Unfortunately, that room was in the worst condition of the three. It had a horrible carpet, nothing at the windows and absolutely no storage – there had been freestanding wardrobes, which the previous owner had taken. The smaller third bedroom is a study, which can be used for extra visitors, but the spare room was in a reasonable state, so we moved in there temporarily, knowing we were ➤

**TOTAL
£2,374**

**TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST**

GREAT IDEA

'Pick three colours and then stick to them to give you a cohesive scheme'

PRACTICAL SOLUTION

'It's a great idea to choose a wardrobe system that allows you to place the shelves and rails at different heights'

Stylists at Home**TRACEY SAYS**

'As the weather begins to turn colder I would add faux-fur cushions, throws and candles to cosy up the bedroom.'

SPACE SAVER

'To avoid bedside tables cluttered with lamps, we put up simple wall lights'

'USING NATURAL MATERIALS LIKE WOOD, WOOL AND COTTON THROUGHOUT THE ROOM MAKES IT FEEL VERY FRESH AND RELAXING'

PERFECT MATCH

'I was so thrilled when I spotted this leaf-design blind in the same tone as my curtains'

» going to tackle the master bedroom in the next phase of the renovation.

Timber touches

We wanted solid-oak flooring throughout the upstairs, and asked the builder to put in some cupboards either side of the bed. We'd bought our bed, bedside tables and storage chest 10 years ago from Habitat – they're such design classics that they're still on sale today – and as they were all in good condition and the wood matched the floor, there was no reason to change them.

We sourced the full-height, oak-veneer wardrobes with "his and hers" sections at Magnet, to run along the wall opposite the bed. The built-in wooden cupboards use up empty space either side of the bed and mean that everything can be put away out of sight. We had ours tailored to our own needs by a carpenter, who added shelves and different sections.

Mural magic

With the walls painted a stone colour, the wow factor was still missing from our room. I'd left the section between the wall cupboards unpainted and was toying with

the idea of wallpaper, when I discovered a mural website. I was amazed at the range of designs and colours. We chose a lovely spring forest, with twinkling sunlight that lifts you every time you step into the room. The mural came in eight separate pieces, and was tricky to put up. But was worth the effort in the end – it was the missing element in our new room.'

My shopping list

Birch trees **mural**, £23.50 per sq m, Wallpaper Murals. Oak **flooring**, £27.99 per sq m, Discount Flooring Depot. **Walls** painted in Jurassic Stone matt emulsion, £21.29 per 2.5ltr, Dulux. Built-in **cupboards** (either side of bed), £800, Dan Chownsmith at DC Carpentry & Construction. Oak-veneered freestanding **wardrobes** with mirrored fronts, £900, Magnet. **Wall lights**, £21 each, Wickes. **Blind** in Lombok Pistachio fabric, price on request, Curtains made for free. **Bedding set**, from £10.99, Elys. **Radius bed**, £750; **bedside tables**, £180 each; **oak chest**, £395, all Habitat. Turquoise woven **storage cubes** are similar, £15 each, Great Little Trading Company. **Throw**, £20, Cargo

Get Su's BEDROOM LOOK

Refresh your scheme with revitalising tones of aqua and lime



LET THERE BE LIGHT

Enjoy the glow of flickering candles. Watercolour print votive, £6, George Home



HIGH ROLLER

Bring interest to your window. Highgrove blue roller blind, £119, Digetex Home



LACE DETAIL

Show off your snaps. Blue ornate photo frame, £15, The Contemporary Home



SOFT TOUCH

Keep cosy with a bright throw. Cob weave wool blanket, £49.95, Decorator's Notebook



AT YOUR SERVICE

Serve up breakfast in style. Enamel tray, £14.95, Annabel James



CUSHY COMFORT

Add a modern touch with solid colour. Embroidered block cushion, £18, Next



FABULOUS FLOWERS

Create a romantic feel with painterly florals. John Rocha bedding, £45, Debenhams



GREEN FOR GLOW

Illuminate a dark area. Aldeburgh glass table lamp, £35, Tesco Direct



RISE AND SHINE

Pick this pretty piece to keep you on time. Printed clock, £20, Bhs



FRESH START
Dorma Sweet
Mandarin & Basil
reed diffuser,
£11.99, Dunelm

2 Make it scentsational
If the space isn't regularly used make sure it's well aired and add a diffuser to fill the room with a beautiful fragrance – there are plenty of seasonal scents to choose from. Just turn the sticks over when the aroma starts to fade. It's touches like this that will make guests feel extra special.

3 Pamper guests
Nothing is as welcoming as a comfy pair of slippers and a pristine white dressing gown. Hang one up for each of your guests, along with a Christmas decoration or two – they'll feel right at home in an instant.

SPA QUALITY
Unisex waffle
robe, £50, The
White Company



Get your spare room GUEST READY

Be the perfect host by making friends and family feel welcome

As the party season draws closer, now could be the time to clear the spare bedroom of laundry and assorted clutter before your guests arrive. Don't panic, it doesn't mean you have to break the bank and buy a brand-new bed, just have a good tidy up and add a few creature comforts that will help them feel right at home.

That's all it takes to make your guests seem like they're staying in a five-star hotel. So, once the deep clean is done and dusted, keep these ideas in mind.

1 Hang a hook
Christmas time means cosy coats, thick jumpers and snuggly dressing gowns. But bulky clothing also requires more space. Give your guests room to hang up their clothes with a set of handy hooks – you can even add a matching seat so it's easy to put on boots.

WE'RE HOOKED
For similar, try the white-painted oak peg rail, £30, Grace & Glory



7 Go for five stars

Make sure your bedding is in tip-top condition. If it's not, then it's the perfect excuse to buy a new set and give your spare room a quick update. Alternatively, just add a few cushions and a throw to refresh what you already have. It's a good idea to wash new linens a few times before your guests arrive, so it's all super soft.

THE RIGHT MIX OF CUSHIONS AND PILLOWS IS THE PERFECT FINISHING TOUCH FOR A HOTEL-STYLE LOOK

8 Check out your windows

How are the window treatments in your spare room looking? Does light burst through first thing in the morning? Then now is the time to put up some new blinds or curtains to ensure your guests aren't rudely awakened from a deep slumber. If you order from Hillarys before 10 December, you'll have them in and fitted before Christmas Day.

PILLOW FIGHT

Ted Baker double duvet cover, £85, and pillowcases, £35, Ashley Wilde



KEEP IT TIDY

Folding luggage rack, £42, The Farthing

4 Create a glow

Candles add a warm ambience, so leave one on a bedside table. If you really want to impress, why not make your own candles? Just don't forget to leave out matches.



GO FOR GOLD

Dark orchid gold and silver-effect candle, £8, Sainsbury's

6 Add towels

Now is the ideal chance to invest in a new set of luxuriously thick towels – this is not the time for second best, and they're so much softer and fluffier when they're new! Fold neatly and leave on the end of the bed so guests can help themselves.



WRAP UP

Nordic Spa towels in Ivory, from £12.50, Nordic House

9 Provide a place to unpack

Your grandparents will appreciate a spot to place their suitcases without having to bend over. By choosing a foldaway design, it can easily be stored in a wardrobe or cupboard if it's not needed.



Subscribe to *Style at Home* at magazinesdirect.com/CLP5 for more stylish guest bedroom ideas.

PERSONAL TOUCH

'We found the vintage auction poster when our local town hall had a clear out. It shows a sale of items from this house and is dated 100 years to the day that we moved in!'



STYLE TIP

'Fit tongue-and-groove panelling for a relaxed country look'

TOTAL
£3,761

**TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST**

'It's so cosy at **WINTER TIME'**

Stylist at Home Nicky, 45, cleverly embraced the original features of her period home to create a quirky kitchen-diner with a comfy snug

MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Nicky Baker, 45, and I live with my husband Richard, 50, and our children Tom, 17, and Lucy, 14, on the Isle of Wight. We bought this house in 2002.

MY CHALLENGE The space is north facing, so it doesn't get any sun, and it wasn't helped by dark walls and orange floor tiles that made the place feel gloomy. We wanted to brighten it all up and make the two adjacent rooms feel like one.

MY WISH LIST We wanted a welcoming and practical family kitchen that we could eat in, as well as a comfortable living room that felt part of the cooking area.



We bought this period house 13 years ago,' says Nicky. 'We fell for its large rooms, traditional features, 1970s arches and Esse range cooker.

But the small, dark kitchen looked gloomy and the living room next to it felt divided from the eating area. We wanted to make the design features from various eras work together to create a homely kitchen-diner with a snug next door.

First things first

Our first job was to make the living area feel more like part of the kitchen, so we

painted the structural arches in a light cream to brighten up the space and make the north-facing rooms feel sunnier. We replaced the dated orange floor tiles with slate, added tongue-and-groove panels and painted the walls pale cream. We kept the units but updated them by getting a local carpenter to make MDF doors that we could paint. New handles gave them a modern finish.

Sourcing the rest

The Esse range cooker was only a few years old, so we kept it and added a gas hob to give us plenty of cooking options, plus an extractor hood, and >>

COLOUR MATCH

'Cream carpet defines the living area, but we've connected the two spaces by painting the alcove shelves the same shade as the units'



Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS

'Painting the tongue-and-groove cream brightens up the space. For a new feel, a few colourful accessories would look fab.'

STREAMLINED

'We had new MDF doors made to fit the existing units and painted them to match the tongue-and-groove'

GREAT IDEA

'Wooden slatted blinds add a feeling of warmth, and let natural light in'

'THINGS LIKE GLASS JARS CAN TEND TO WOBBLE ON STAINLESS STEEL BAR SHELVES – BUT I LOVE THE LOOK OF THEM!'

» new sink and tap. Richard wanted to fit a new worktop under the entire width of the window but the only supplier we could find with that length of worktop was on the mainland, and we had to borrow my dad's camper van to fit it in. Richard templated the surface and fitted it around the sink and hob. The appliances were fitted and, in just four weeks, we had a fresh, modernised kitchen.

Cosy space

The snug next to the kitchen has changed its purpose over the years. As the children were no longer using it as a play space or TV room, we decided to give it a grown-up vibe with a new sofa, cream carpet and smart alcove shelves painted to match the kitchen units. The final addition was a woodburner and slate hearth, which transformed the space. It's so cosy sitting in front of the fire in the winter months or having a glass of bubbly on Christmas Day, smelling the delicious roast cooking. It's hard to leave the house on those days!

My shopping list

Logburner, £2,100 including full flue fitting and installation, Morsø. Laminate wood-effect **worktops**, around £70 for 2m length, Mitchells Worktops. For tongue-and-groove **panelling**, try EASIPanel standard panels, £9.29, Homebase. Panels, unit doors and brickwork **painted** in Craig & Rose Hemp Beige matt emulsion, £24.37 per 2.5ltr; **walls** painted in Craig & Rose Study Room Blue matt emulsion, £24.37 per 2.5ltr; **extractor hood**, approx £50; Sandstorm slate-effect **floor tiles**, £17.82 for a pack of 6, all B&Q. **Hob**, £150, Smeg. Boholmen stainless steel **sink**, £90; Edsvik dual-control kitchen **mixer tap**, £50; Lansa **handles**, £4.50 for two; Foto **pendant lamp**, £12; Grundtal **metal shelves**, £14 each; for a similar dining table try the Norden extendable **table**, £170; for similar **dining chairs** try the Borje chairs, £45 each, all Ikea. Sanderson's Swallows **wallpaper**, £44 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Crab drawing **cushion**, price on request, The Wight Pencil



HOME COOKING

'The Esse range cooker is a real treat as it stays so warm'



RUSTIC STYLE

'The archways have come in handy as we can hang our pans from them'



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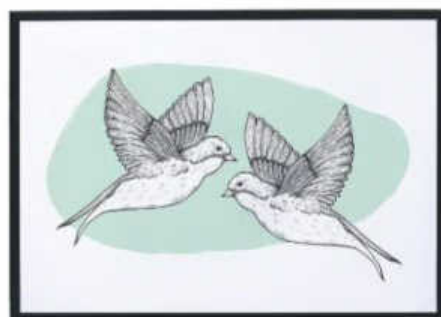
Get Nicky's KITCHEN-DINER LOOK

Banish the winter gloom by adding pops of fresh green to your scheme



VINTAGE VESSEL

Arrange a country-style flower display. Enamel water jug, £19.95, Dotcomgiftshop



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Take a flight of fancy. Two Swallows print, £13.50, Aysha Illustrates at Notonthehighstreet.com



GREAT PRICE

FRYING TONIGHT

Invest in good-quality cookware. Pyrex Gusto wok, £24, Amazon



GO FOR GREY

Inject a cosy feel. Cushion cover, £3.99, H&M



TO THE POINT

Choose efficient chopping tools. Jamie Oliver 6-piece knife block set, £175, John Lewis



CHOP CHOP

Place by the hearth for a rustic feel. Cream kindling bucket, £16.55, Roman at Home



SWEET SCENT

Lily of the Valley cleansing hand wash, £6, Heathcote & Ivory



MESH IT UP

Use to store fruit or veg. Grey basket, £4.99, HomeSense



TABLE TOPPER

Bring your table to life with a pop of lime. Skinny Weave placemat, £6 for two, Bhs

Save money on your DREAM KITCHEN

Find out where to go, what to ask and how
you can get the best deal in the sales*



MODERN GLOSS
Metod/Marsta
kitchen, £3,040
(£4,950 including
appliances), Ikea

January sales are a great time to bag a bargain. However, if your savings wish list extends beyond the odd impulse purchase to a full kitchen, it's worth doing your homework in advance. With a little smart planning, you could be quids in on a gorgeous new scheme.

Winter sales usually give the most generous discounts, as January can be a tight month – however, many retailers offer finance packages to help with this.

Make a plan

To ensure you're prepared, think exactly what your needs are, as well as considering where you're prepared to compromise (in case some options aren't in the sale). Being aware of the promotional dates and when the offer begins will prevent you missing out, as some sales start on Boxing Day. Usually, the sooner you buy, the less time you'll wait for it to be fitted, as installation teams will get busier as the sales progress.



NATURAL CHOICE
IT Sandford Textured Oak
Effect Slab, £658, based
on eight units, B&Q



PALE LOOKS
Atlanta Cashmere, £2,938,
based on an eight-unit
scheme, Wickes

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

Q Why buy my kitchen in the sale?
Buying in the sale is ideal for savvy shoppers, especially if you use the saving wisely. For example, you may be able to afford an extra unit or two, or you could use savings to choose a higher-spec finish, better-quality appliances, fixtures and fittings or worktops. You could also take advantage of further discount packages on worktops and appliances.

Q How much can I expect to save?
It'll depend on the range you choose but you could save between 60-70% on a new kitchen, plus get free extra appliances or save on them as a package.

Q What should I do before the sales?
Measure your space and visit stores before the sales start. It's a good idea to make an appointment with a designer in advance, so you can have initial discussions on layout and design. Get as much inspiration as possible before your appointment and perhaps make some mood boards so that they can see what ideas you've got. If you don't have time to visit a designer, many manufacturers have 'visualising' tools on their websites.

Q What other decisions should I make?
Think about what ranges you like and bear in mind what unit sizes are available – a scheme that comes with the option of narrow depth units or slim cupboards will help if you're planning for an awkward space. Ask if each design comes as flat-pack or pre-assembled/rigid cabinets. The saving you'll make on flat pack can be offset by extra time waiting for the kitchen to be finished and additional fitting costs.

Q Where should I go?
The major high-street retailers are a good place to start but don't forget about local independent showrooms, too. Many offer kitchens at a range of price points and may also have sales. Online, quality can vary so it's probably best to still see products in-store before you buy or choose a reputable retailer, such as Ikea, Wickes and Argos, which all sell kitchens.

Q What can I buy in the sale if I'm not ready to buy a whole kitchen?
Appliances are often a good buy in the sales, especially freestanding versions such as washers, dishwashers or range cookers. However, if you're thinking about buying built-in kit for a kitchen revamp later in the year, remember that you'll need somewhere to store it and may have to source a separate person to fit it for you (not from your kitchen company). Replacement doors, worktops and fittings are also good sale buys, letting you keep your carcasses but still get the look of a new kitchen.



WHITE OUT
Six open-grain white doors, from around £1,200 to replace and fit eight door fronts, Dream Doors

IT MAY BE MORE COST-EFFECTIVE TO SOURCE A LOCAL FITTER, BUT A COMPANY'S FITTERS WILL KNOW THE PRODUCTS BETTER

ONLINE KITCHEN PLANNERS

Check out our selection of the best tools for designing your own kitchen scheme

CONFIGURE THIS

Wren's online planner makes finding the right colour combinations for your new kitchen a doddle. It's super-speedy – just pick a range and click away to select everything from door colour and end panels. It'll even save your design so you can see it in 3D and get a quick price estimate.

SELF-DESIGNED SAVINGS

Give Magnet's online design tool a whirl and not only do you get to enjoy creating your own dream scheme, but you'll also qualify for a 10% self-design discount. Pick one of its pre-filled layouts and get

clicking on the orange dots to change parts to your taste, while a calculator at the bottom keeps your budget on track – there's even a guide to installation costs.

PERFECT YOUR PLAN

For serious down-to-the-millimetre designing, look no further than Ikea's kitchen planner. You can specify your room's dimensions, add windows, doors, services, and even houseplants. Then you can choose your units, customising them with handles and appliances and then simply print out your shopping list to take to your local store or buy online.

CHOP CHOP!

Prep veg in style. Sophie Conran paddle boards, from £13.99 for small, T&G Woodware

MODERN RUSTIC

Blue crockery and glassware bring a country look up to date. From £5 for a set of two Glazed Stoneware coasters and Owl tumblers, all George Home

SOUK STYLE

Perk up meals with patterned crockery. Comptoir Libanais bowl, £6.50, Ocado

TUNE IN

Try singing for your supper! Revival Mini DAB radio, £140, Roberts Radio

CLOCK IT

Time cakes to perfection. Pantry clock, £30, Newgate

QUICK UPDATE

Brighten up units. Carved door knobs, £3.99 each, Gisela Graham

URBAN CRAFT

This basket is dipped for a modern twist. Pols Potten Basket Gradient, £23, Amara

TAKE TWO

Introduce some animal charm. Hand-painted Owl salt and pepper mills, £6, Bhs

WELL HANDLED

Add a pop of colour. Tribeca cutlery, £19.50 for a 16-piece set, Marks & Spencer

LEAFY GREENS

New textiles will give a fresh feel. Green Leaf oven glove, £4.49, Suburban Living

TEA TIME

Go retro with this funky teapot. Lotus porcelain teapot, £13, Typhoon Housewares

FAB DESIGN

HAVE YOUR CAKE...

Show off home bakes on this gorgeous stand. Square cake stand, £13.50, Anton Studio Designs

Woodland AWAKE

Bring a fresh, uplifting feel to a kitchen with accessories in zingy greens and vibrant blues

Decorate the
gingerbread house
with your favourite
sweets

THIS MONTH'S *Make it*

Create a display that's good enough to eat with a quirky gingerbread house. Visit our blog cushienumber.co.uk for our recipe and the template to make this delicious design - perfect for keeping the kids busy!

Stylists at Home



MARIE SAYS

'Melt down boiled sweets to make stained glass windows and add liquorice laces for the window frames.'

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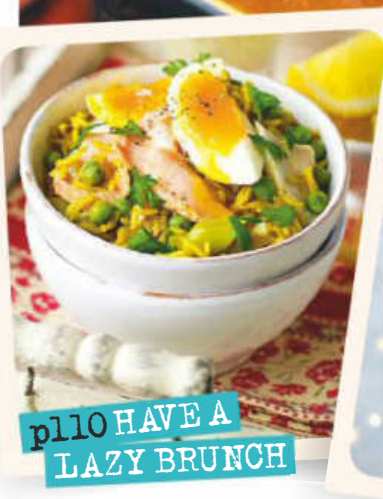
Cook **INSIDE** *at Home*

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p106
**GET READY
TO PARTY**

Be the perfect host with our
easy New Year's recipes

Have the PERFECT PARTY

Get set for the New Year celebrations with our super-easy party food recipes that serve eight as part of a mixed menu



SERVE
WITH
SOURCED
CREAM

Smokin' nachos

SMOKIN' NACHOS

TAKES 20MINS

To make guacamole, mash the flesh from **2 avocados** with the **juice and grated zest** of **1 lime**, **1 diced chilli**, **1 diced shallot** and a few sprigs of fresh coriander. To make the sweetcorn salsa, mix a drained **400g can** chopped tomatoes, **2tbsp diced jalapeños**, drained **198g can sweetcorn**, **1tbsp olive oil**. A few sliced spring onions and sliced sprigs coriander. For the nachos, grill **6 rashers bacon**. Preheat oven to **200°C/Gas 6**. Pile **175g tortilla chips** into an ovenproof dish, top with **150g grated cheese**, the bacon and **50g pitted olives**. Bake until melted.

CRISPY PRAWNS

TAKES 15MINS

Preheat oven to **220°C/Gas 7**. Toss **300g large raw peeled prawns**, patted dry on kitchen paper, with **2tbsp sweet chilli sauce**, then dip into **40g panko breadcrumbs**. Spread on a baking tray lined with **baking paper** and bake for 6-8 mins.

SAUCY NOODLES

TAKES 15MINS

Stir-fry **300g pack stir-fry veg** and **50g cashews** in **2tbsp sunflower oil** for 3 mins. Add **300g cooked egg noodles**, **120g black bean sauce** and **2tbsp water** and cook, stirring for 2 mins until piping hot. Spoon into warmed pots, scatter with **2 shredded spring onions** and serve.

DUCK PUFFS

TAKES 45MINS

Preheat oven to **200°C/Gas 6**. From a **400g can duck confit**, remove the **2 duck legs** and discard fat, skin and bones. Shred meat in a bowl. Mix with **3tbsp sweet chilli sauce** and **4 shredded spring onions**. Unroll **320g ready-rolled puff pastry** and cut lengthways into two long strips. Beat **1 egg** and brush down the long edges of the pastry. Spoon half the duck mixture onto the middle of each strip. Roll up to make two long sausages. With the seam underneath, cut each sausage into 12 rolls, trimming the ends. Put on a baking tray, brush with egg, press on a **coriander leaf**. Bake for 20 mins. ➤➤

Or try...



ICELAND

Six Luxury French chocolate brulee domes, £5.99 (510g)



SAINSBURY'S

Taste the Difference Brie and cranberry filo tarts, £3.50 (252g)



MORRISONS

M Signature smoked salmon & beetroot blinis, £3.50 (205g)



Crispy prawns

Duck puffs

Saucy noodles

Chicken skewers

Bombay potato bites

EASY TO DISH UP

Dill & red onion dip



CHICKEN SKEWERS

TAKES 40MINS

Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Soak **8 wooden skewers** in water for 20 mins. Heat **1tbsp sunflower oil** in a frying pan, add **300g chicken mini fillets** and cook for 2 mins each side until golden. Mix with **2tbsp rogan josh curry paste**, cool for a few mins, then place each one on a skewer. Put on a baking tray lined with **non-stick baking paper**, and cook for 15 mins until cooked through.

BOMBAY POTATO BITES

TAKES 45MINS

Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Boil **500g baby new potatoes** for 10 mins until almost tender, then drain. Toss with **2tbsp sunflower oil**, **1tsp ground cumin**, **1tsp mustard seeds**, **½tsp turmeric**, **½tsp paprika** and **½tsp mild chilli powder**. Scatter on a baking tray and roast for 20-25 mins until golden.

DILL & RED ONION DIP

TAKES 15MINS

Mix **1 finely diced red onion** with **juice ½ lemon** and **pinch salt**, set aside for 10 mins. Rinse and drain on kitchen paper before mixing with a **few sprigs of chopped dill** and **200g Greek-style yoghurt**.

BERRY MERINGUES

TAKES 5MINS

Place **16 mini meringues** onto a serving plate. Divide **180ml pot Baileys extra thick cream** between the meringues. Top with **16 raspberries** and **32 blueberries** (1 raspberry and 2 blueberries per meringue). Serve within 1 hr so the meringues don't become soggy.

DIPPING DOUGHNUTS

TAKES 15MINS

For the rum toffee sauce, melt **30g butter** and **60g light muscovado sugar** in a small pan over a medium heat until the sugar has dissolved. Increase the heat and bubble for 1 min, or until the mixture turns a deep golden colour. Gradually pour in **5tbsp double cream** and bubble for 1 min. Remove from the heat and stir in **2tbsp rum**. For the chocolate sauce, warm **100g Toblerone**, broken into chunks, and **6tbsp single cream** in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water (don't let the bowl touch the water), stirring until smooth. Warm **24 sugared mini doughnuts** in the oven on a low heat for a few mins. Serve immediately with the two warm sauces for dipping.



DRIZZLE MELTED DARK AND WHITE CHOCOLATE OVER THE DOUGHNUTS AND MERINGUES FOR ADDED INDULGENCE

To drink...



ALDI
Valdobbiadene
Prosecco,
£7.49 (75cl)



OCADO
Belvoir apple, plum
and cinnamon cordial,
£3.15 (500ml)



ASDA
Extra Special
Asti, £5.48
(75cl)



WAITROSE
Gingerella
ginger ale, £1.59
(330ml)



MARKS & SPENCER
Christmas mince pie
martini, £12 (50cl)



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QUICK
& EASY

HADDOCK & SALMON KEDGEREE

TAKES 25MINS SERVES 6

★ 250g smoked haddock ★ 250g lightly smoked salmon filets ★ 500ml milk ★ 1 bay leaf ★ 1tbsp oil ★ 25g butter ★ 2 leeks, sliced ★ 1 onion, chopped ★ 3tbsp curry powder ★ ½tsp turmeric ★ 250g basmati rice ★ 600ml hot veg stock ★ 200g peas ★ Bunch flat-leaf parsley ★ 2 lemons ★ 4 eggs, soft boiled, peeled and sliced

1 Put the haddock and salmon fillets in a pan and cover with milk. Add the bay leaf and poach for 10 mins until just cooked. Flake the fish.

2 Meanwhile, heat the oil and butter in a large frying pan. Fry the leeks and onion for 10 mins until soft. Stir in the curry powder and turmeric, then cook for 2 mins more.

3 Add the rice and hot stock to the pan. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 6-8 mins, until almost cooked.

4 Stir in the peas, cook for 1 min, then mix in the parsley, juice from ½ lemon, plenty of black pepper and the fish and eggs. Serve with the lemon wedges to squeeze over.


 DRIZZLE
WITH
ICING

BANANA MUFFINS

TAKES 45MINS MAKES 12

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Line a 12-hole muffin tin with cases. Mash **350g ripe bananas**, then beat in **150g light muscovado sugar**, **75ml sunflower oil** and **2 eggs** until well combined. Stir in **150g plain flour** and **150g wholemeal flour**, **100g plain chocolate chips**, **2tsp baking powder** and **1tsp cinnamon**. Pour into the muffin cases. Bake for 25 mins.

SALMON & SCRAMBLED EGG BAGELS

TAKES 15MINS SERVES 2

Halve **2 bagels** and toast until golden. Beat **4 eggs** and pour into a non-stick pan. Add **4tbsp mascarpone cheese** and season. Heat gently, stirring, until softly set. Stir in **2tsp finely snipped chives**. Divide the scrambled egg between the bagels and add **2 slices of smoked salmon** to each and serve.



GRIDDLE BANANAS HALVED LENGTHWAYS, AND SERVE WITH YOUR PANCAKES FOR AN EXTRA SWEET TOUCH

For the best
flavour use streaky
smoked bacon



FRUITY FOOL

TAKES 15MINS SERVES 4

Whisk together **300g mascarpone** and **1tbsp raspberry syrup**. Put 100g of this into a processor with **125g raspberries** and **75g blueberries**. Add **2tbsp raspberry syrup** and blitz to a purée. Fold into the mascarpone mix to marble and chill. Divide into dishes. Top with **raspberry syrup** and **berries**.

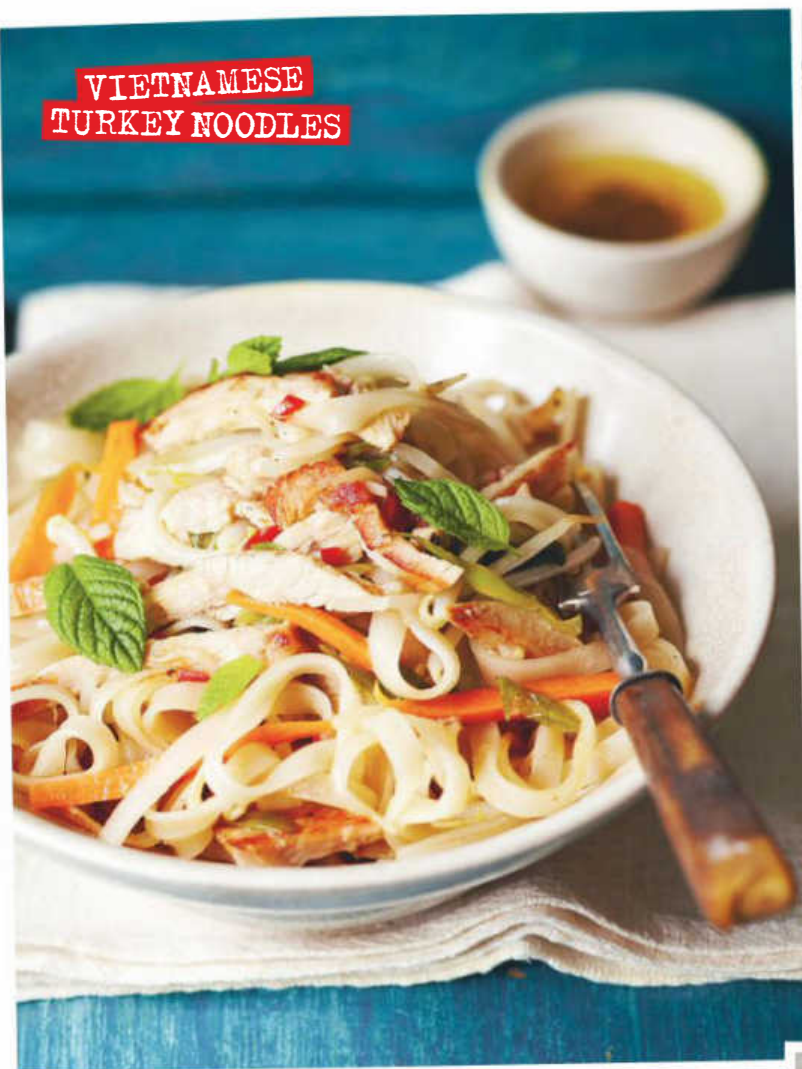


BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

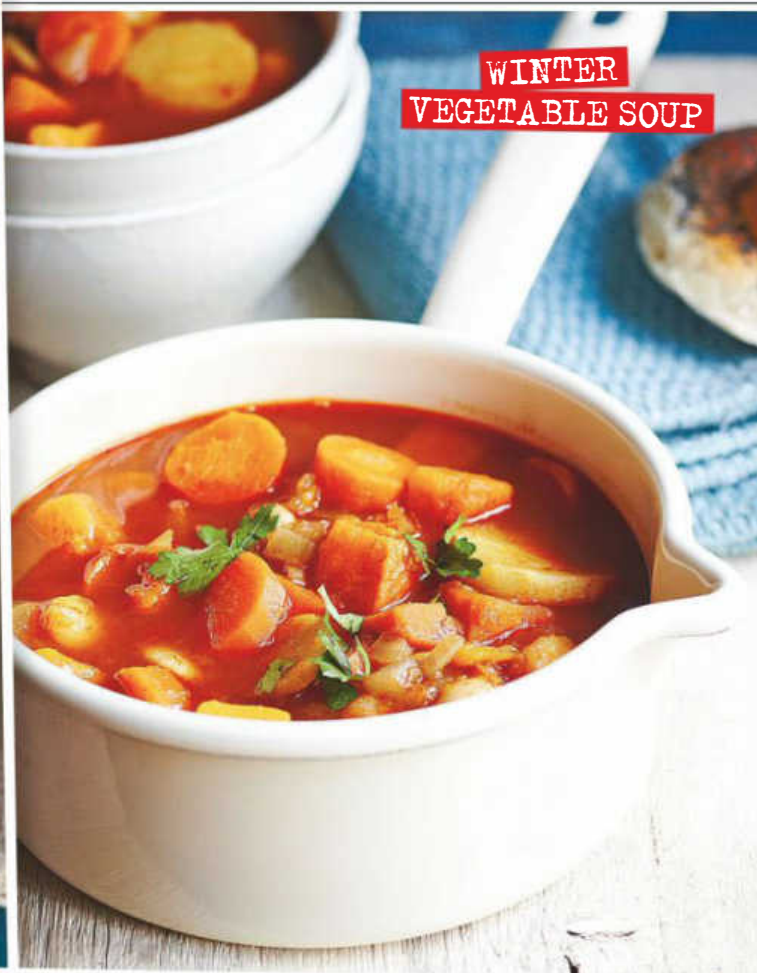
TAKES 30MINS MAKES 12

Beat **3 egg yolks**, add **2 x 284ml pots buttermilk** and **60g melted butter**. Whisk in **300g plain flour**, **1tsp salt** and **1tsp bicarbonate of soda**. Whisk **3 egg whites** to soft peaks, fold into the batter. Heat **1tsp butter** in a pan, add a little batter. Take **150g blueberries**, scatter a few on top. Cook for a few mins, flip over, cook for 2 mins until golden. Keep warm in the oven. Repeat. Serve with **bacon** and **maple syrup**.

**VIETNAMESE
TURKEY NOODLES**



**WINTER
VEGETABLE SOUP**



**CHEESY
TORTILLA**



**PANETTONE
PUDDING**

Make the most of LEFTOVERS

Waste nothing this Christmas with our yummy Boxing Day recipes

VIETNAMESE TURKEY NOODLES

TAKES 25MINS SERVES 4

* 300g cooked shredded turkey
* 2tbsp sweet chilli sauce * Grated zest and juice 1 lime * 300g rice noodles * 1tbsp olive oil * 2tbsp fish sauce * 2tbsp soy sauce * 2tbsp sesame oil * 1 red chilli, diced * 1/2 cucumber, deseeded and chopped * 1/2 bunch spring onions, sliced * Handful coriander

1 Put the turkey in a bowl with the sweet chilli sauce and lime zest for 10 mins. Cook 300g rice noodles to pack instructions, rinse then put in a large bowl.

2 Heat the olive oil in a pan over a medium heat and fry the shredded turkey for 3 mins, turning until heated through. Set aside in a bowl.

3 Mix the lime juice, fish sauce, soy sauce and sesame oil together, then pour over the noodles. Add the turkey with the chilli, cucumber, spring onions and coriander, then toss together and serve.

WINTER VEGETABLE SOUP

TAKES 45MINS SERVES 4

* 1tbsp olive oil * 1 onion, finely chopped * 2tsp ground coriander * Pinch ground cumin * 2 carrots,

sliced * 2 parsnips, sliced * 2 potatoes, cubed * 250g butternut squash, cubed * 1.1ltr hot vegetable stock * 400g can butter beans, drained

1 Heat the olive oil in a pan and fry the onion for a few mins to soften. Add the ground coriander and cumin and cook for 30 secs. Add the carrots, parsnips, potatoes, butternut squash and stock and simmer for 25 mins until tender (if using leftover cooked veg, reduce the simmer time by 10 mins).

2 Add the butter beans, warm through and serve. For a smooth soup, blend with a stick blender.

CHEESY TORTILLA

TAKES 30MINS SERVES 4

* 2tbsp olive oil * 1 red onion, sliced * 350g leftover roast potatoes * 6 eggs, beaten * 120g Wensleydale with cranberries, crumbled * 120g Brie, sliced * Few sage leaves

1 Heat the olive oil in a large frying pan. Add the onion and fry for 6 mins to soften. Add the leftover roast potatoes and cook for a few mins to heat through.

2 Pour in the eggs, season and cook for 5 mins while you preheat the grill. Top with the Wensleydale, Brie and a few



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sage leaves. Place under the grill for a few mins until the top is golden.

PANETTONE PUDDING

TAKES 1HR SERVES 8

* 75g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing * 350g panettone with chocolate chips, sliced into 1.5cm-thick pieces * 25g white chocolate chunks * 3 eggs * 200ml double cream * 250ml whole milk * 1tsp vanilla extract * 2tbsp caster sugar * 1tbsp demerara sugar * 50g dark chocolate, melted

1 Grease a 2ltr ovenproof baking dish. Preheat oven to 160°C/Gas 3. Butter the panettone, arrange in the dish, overlapping as you go, and scatter with white chocolate.

2 Whisk together the eggs, cream, milk, vanilla and caster sugar until combined. Pour over the panettone and sprinkle with the demerara sugar. Put the dish into a large roasting tin containing kettle-hot water to a depth of 3cm. Bake for 40 mins. Leave to stand for 5 mins, drizzle with melted dark chocolate and serve with custard or cream.

LEFTOVER VEG IS GREAT FOR MAKING BUBBLE & SQUEAK. SERVE WITH A POACHED EGG ON TOP

CHOCCY MARSHMALLOW BISCUIT SLICE

TAKES 50MINS SERVES 10

* 300g leftover Christmas chocolate, chopped * 3tbsp golden syrup * 125g butter * 50g marshmallows * 200g shortbread * Edible sprinkles

1 Put the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water with the golden syrup and butter. Make sure the water doesn't touch the bowl (otherwise it will seize) and stir until melted. Set aside.

2 Cut up the marshmallows into small pieces using a pair of scissors (dip the scissors in boiling water between cuts to prevent them sticking) and break the shortbread into small pieces. Stir the marshmallows and shortbread into the chocolate then pour into a 18 x 28cm baking tin lined with clingfilm.

3 Top with edible sprinkles and chill for 20 mins until solid. Slice into rectangles and serve.



Make decorations **GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT**

Bake your own table settings
and Christmas tree decs
for a truly festive feel

FESTIVE BREAD WREATH

TAKES 2HRS SERVES 12

★ 500g strong plain white flour ★ 7g sachet fast-action dried yeast ★ 1tsp salt ★ 1tsp caster sugar ★ 6tbsp olive oil ★ Bunch rosemary and fresh cranberries ★ 2tbsp pine nuts ★ 1tbsp sea salt

1 Put the flour into a bowl of an electric mixer fitted with a dough hook and stir in the yeast, salt and sugar. Add 3tbsp oil to 300ml warm water and pour it into the flour. Mix well for 5 mins until smooth and elastic.

2 Form the dough into a roll (on an oiled surface) to make a sausage shape 70cm long. Put the dough onto a buttered baking tray in a circle 25cm in diameter and join the ends together. Cover loosely with oiled clingfilm and leave in a warm place for 40 mins until nearly doubled in size. Preheat oven to 220°C/Gas 7.

3 Remove the clingfilm, press the rosemary sprigs into the dough around the top to look like a wreath.

4 Add the cranberries and sprinkle with pine nuts. Cover and leave to rise for 10 mins. Sprinkle with the salt, drizzle over 2tbsp olive oil and bake for 15 mins. Turn the oven down to 180°C/Gas 4. Bake for 15 mins until golden.



**PRETTY
UP A
TABLE**

SNOWY STARS

TAKES 1HR 35MINS MAKES 12

Preheat the oven to 110°C/Gas ½. Draw round a star-shaped cutter on baking paper. Whisk **2 egg whites** in a bowl until firm. Add **75g caster sugar** and whisk until stiff and glossy. Whisk in **50g more caster sugar**. Put in a piping bag with a **star nozzle** and pipe stars onto the baking paper. Bake for 1 hr until crisp. Turn off the oven and leave the stars inside there for 2hrs to dry out. Thread through ribbon and hang.





CHRISTMAS PUD CAKE POPS

TAKES 2HRS SERVES 12

★ 100g dark chocolate
★ 125g fruit cake and
125g Madeira cake
crumbled ★ 2tbsp
desiccated coconut **TO
DECORATE** 100g dark
chocolate ★ 60g white
chocolate ★ Red and
green writing icing

1 Break up the dark chocolate in a large bowl over a pan of simmering water and leave it to melt. Remove from the heat and stir in the coconut and mix well. Leave to cool for 10 mins.

2 Divide into golf-ball sized portions. Push a lolly stick into each one. Lay on a lined baking sheet and chill until firm.

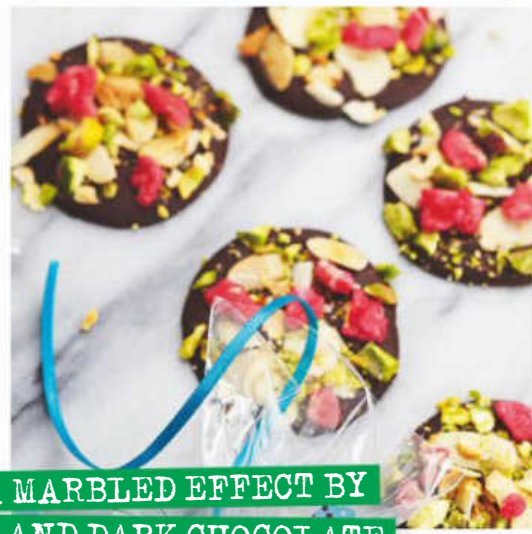
3 To decorate the cake pops: melt the dark chocolate in a bowl over a pan of simmering water (don't let the water touch the bowl). Half-fill a jug with sugar ready to stand the cake pops in. Dip the balls in the chocolate, letting the excess drip off, and stand in the sugar until the chocolate is set.

4 Melt the white chocolate and pipe it on top. Leave to set, use the writing icing to pipe holly leaves and berries on top. Leave to set. Put a cake case on the stick underneath the cake. Add ribbon and names tags to use them as place settings.

CHOCOLATE WAFERS

TAKES 10MINS + SETTING MAKES 14

Put **100g chopped dark chocolate** in a bowl over a pan of simmering water and melt (don't let the water touch the bowl). Put spoonfuls of chocolate onto a lined baking tray to make 4cm rounds. Sprinkle over **15g toasted, flaked almonds** and **15g chopped pistachios**. Top with **1tbsp crystallised rose petals**, leave to set.



**TRY CREATING A MARBLED EFFECT BY
USING WHITE AND DARK CHOCOLATE
SWIRLED TOGETHER**

**USE FOR
PLACE
NAMES**

ORANGE COOKIES

**TAKES 1HR + CHILLING
MAKES 16**

Put **175g plain flour**, pinch of salt, **1tsp ground ginger**, zest **1 orange** and **100g diced butter** into a food processor. Whizz to make crumbs. Add **60g caster sugar** and **2tbsp milk** and mix. Knead until smooth on a floured surface, wrap in clingfilm and chill for 30 mins. Preheat oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Halve the dough and roll out till 3mm thick. Stamp out shapes using large cookie cutters. Use small cutters to make your own design. Make a hole in the top for the ribbon. Re-roll the dough and cut out more cookies. Place on lined baking trays. Put **10 boiled sweets** into a freezer bag and crush them with a rolling pin. Put into the decorative holes. Bake for 15 mins until golden. Cool for 5 mins. Leave to cool. To decorate. Add **1tbsp water** to **125g royal icing sugar** in a bowl and use an electric whisk to mix for 4 mins. Add 1tsp water to make it runny enough to pipe. Pipe icing over the cookies and add **silver balls**. Thread through ribbon and hang on the tree.

RECIPES & PHOTOGRAPHS
TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM, WOMAN'S WEEKLY



**HANG
ON THE
TREE**

Bake a classic WITH A TWIST

Try this delicious variation on a Christmas favourite

SALTED CARAMEL CHOCOLATE YULE LOG

TAKES 45MINS SERVES 12

★ 175g dark chocolate ★ 6 eggs, separated ★ 175g caster sugar **FOR THE FILLING** ½tsp sea salt ★ 397g can caramel ★ 250g mascarpone ★ 2tsp vanilla extract **FOR THE GANACHE** 175g dark chocolate ★ 75g butter ★ 4tbsp double cream ★ 100g chocolate curls ★ Edible glitter

1 Preheat oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Grease and line a 38 x 26cm Swiss roll tin. Put the chocolate in a heatproof bowl and melt over a pan of simmering water. Whisk the egg whites to soft peaks.

2 In a separate bowl whisk the yolks and sugar until pale and thick. Beat in the chocolate. Fold in the egg whites, pour into the tin and bake for 25 mins. Cool in the tin, cover with a damp tea towel.

3 Add salt to the caramel. Reserve a third. Mix the rest with mascarpone and vanilla. Upturn the roulade onto baking paper. Spread with caramel and top with the mascarpone. Roll up.

4 Melt the chocolate for the ganache with the butter and cream then stir. Cool for 15 mins. Spread over the log, add chocolate curls and glitter.

SWEET
'N'
SALTY

Or try these...



THE CO-OPERATIVE

Belgian chocolate profiteroles, £2.99 (270g)



MARKS & SPENCER

Milk chocolate and raspberry Santa, £10 (600g)



TESCO

Snowman cheesecake, £5 (600g)

↖ Add festive candles for a sparkling finish



THIS MONTH'S *Buy it*

Bring warmth into your kitchen with copper-toned bakeware. Evoking a spicy, rich feel, this gorgeous set of bowls, cutters and measuring spoons will help you create tasty treats time and again.

Choose eye-catching kitchenware you won't want to let out of your sight

Stylists *at Home*



MARIE SAYS
'These festive copper cookie cutters could also be used as trendy tree decorations by adding some black cotton to hang them from branches.'

WARM GLOW
Copper baking accessories, from £2.50 each, Sainsbury's Home

January's HOME SAVER

Our top fixes for household dilemmas and money-saving tips

Start the declutter

Many of us resolve to be more organised and neat in January, so start with these useful tips

MAKE SPACE FOR PRESENTS The rule of one in, one out is a good mantra when storing Christmas gifts. If someone's given you a new jumper, take one you no longer wear to the charity shop. Pass on toys your children have grown out of and when you buy new bedding in the sales, keep old duvet covers as decorating dustsheets.

TIDY PAPERWORK Rather than have papers strewn around, file and organise things in order. A clip on the wall or on a magnet board keeps papers that need actioning clearly visible, and a pretty magazine file can hold paperwork that must be kept for reference.

SORT CROCKERY Many cupboards are crammed with too much crockery. Take everything out and throw away anything that's chipped or cracked, and remove any mugs that you don't like and either give them to charity or use in the garage to store paintbrushes or tools. Keep items neat and accessible and not squashed.

CLEAR SHELVES Look at your bookcases and shelves – often they become crammed full of books you've read and won't read again, out-of-date photos and odds and ends you've put there to deal with later. Clear the shelf, wipe away dust and only put back things you like or need and arrange neatly, leaving room in-between groups if possible for an uncluttered feel.

SAFE DISTANCE

Keep things like china spaced well apart to prevent any breakages



HANDY HELPERS

Make laundry days run smoother and get better results with these household essentials

AIR FIX

Get your washing to dry faster by hanging clothes to dry on a heated electric airer, which folds flat for easy storage when not in use, £39.99, Dunelm



SAVE YOUR SHIRTS

Avoid shiny marks on dark fabrics by using a special ironing cloth. Iron over the garment to avoid imprints or scorching. £3.57 for a two-pack, Lakeland



DIY DRY-CLEANING

Use special sheets to beat stains and odours on dry-clean-only fabrics then pop in a low heat tumble dryer for 20 minutes, £3.49 for three-pack, Dr Beckmann



WHY YOU SHOULD OWN A CORDLESS SCREWDRIVER

Make light work of fiddly household jobs with this indispensable bit of kit

BE FEARLESS

There's no need to fear power tools. They're simple to use, make jobs around the home faster and easier and a cordless electric screwdriver is a must for every home.

FASTER FLAT-PACK

Putting together flat-pack furniture can take ages, but doing up all those screws to assemble furniture takes no time at all with a power

tool – if you need to tighten bolts, make sure you have the right allen key bit.

TICK OFF TASKS

All those things you put off, such as fitting battery lights in dark cupboards, adding storage to the back of doors or fixing a wobbly shelf are easy – grab your screwdriver and it's done in minutes. Batteries hold their charge for a surprising length of time, so chances

are you won't need to charge it first.

BE INDEPENDENT

This tool does all the hard work for you, saving aching hands and wrists so you can get jobs done yourself rather than waiting for someone else to do it for you. The Bosch IXO has attachments that transform it from a screwdriver into a cutter, corkscrew or even a salt and pepper grinder!

QUICK FIX

Bosch IXO cordless screwdriver, £39.99

3 apps for... A HEALTHY NEW YEAR

Feel better in 2016 with the help of these apps



PEDOMETER

++

Free

Use an app to count the number of steps you do each day aiming for 10,000. When you notice how much fitter you feel, you're more likely to walk to achieve the total when you can, rather than drive.



MY FITNESS PAL

Free

Track calories (either from the database or easy barcode scanner) and log exercise to help lose those festive pounds. It automatically adds steps from other devices, making this a foolproof, and slightly addictive app!



5KRUNNER

Free

Fantastic app to get non-runners doing exercise. It starts gently and moves on at just the right pace so you progress from the couch to running 5k. Before you know it you'll have the running bug.

POUR WHITE VINEGAR ONTO A CLOTH TO GET YOUR TAPS SPARKLING CLEAN FOR THE NEW YEAR

EASY UPDATE

V&A Colbalt tiles, from £12.71 per sq m, Bathstore



You ask us...

Q I'd like to tile a splashback in my bathroom – how tricky is this to do?

A simple panel of tiles is a great project for a beginner. If you need to remove existing tiles, wear goggles and gloves and clear up shards carefully. Create a tile design and lay them on the floor with spacers to measure how big the panel will be so you can make it central to fittings. Mark the splashback size on the wall then apply ready-mixed adhesive with a notched trowel. Push the bottom row of tiles firmly to the

wall with spacers between, then fit the upper row and border tile. Wipe adhesive from the tile surface with a damp sponge and leave to dry. Grout the gaps between the tiles, and wipe the grout off before it dries. Buff the surface with a soft cloth.



Tweet the team at **#askSAH** with your decorating dilemmas.

All in the details... HOW TO BOX IN PIPES

Conceal ugly exposed pipework in corners



1 Attach a vertical wooden batten to the wall next to the pipes at 1m intervals using plastic joints (screw to the batten first, then to the wall).



2 Cut a piece of hardboard or thin MDF to fit over the top of the pipes. Add insulation if necessary, then use panel pins to attach it to the battens. Paint the box to match your decor.

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TERMS & CONDITIONS 17 winners will each receive a Dimplex Forté dehumidifier. No cash alternative. Competition open to UK mainland entrants only. Winners will be contacted directly to arrange delivery to winner's address only. The promoter is *Style at Home*. Prizes supplied by Dimplex. Employees cannot enter. The prize is subject to availability. Service provider is Spoke 0333 202 3390. *When you enter by text you may get SMS marketing messages from Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and *Style at Home*. If you don't want to receive marketing messages, end text with NO INFO. Lines open at 00.00am on 28 November 2015 and close on 23:59 on 31 December 2015. See page 129 for full terms and conditions.



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POST Fill in the coupon and send to Dimplex/SAH January competition, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB.

ONLINE Visit housetohome.co.uk/competitions.

Phone lines open on 28 November 2015 and close at 23:59 on 31 December 2015, and postal entries close three days later. SP: Spoke Ltd 0333 202 3390.

ENTRY FORM

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Style at Home

QUESTION How many dehumidifiers are in the Dimplex Forté collection?

A) 1 B) 3 C) 10

ANSWER

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The home stylist

OUR WEEKLY TREAT FROM US TO YOU



Hello,

With school back in full swing, what better way to get the kids reading than a cosy snug where they can let their imaginations run wild? If you have a spare couple of hours this weekend, take a look at our fab upcycling ideas and make sure you check out this fun house tour – we love the printer's tray and all the bits and bobs on display! Don't forget to pick up your copy and give Food Ed Amy's recipes a try. We can vouch for the gingerbread house!

Love, the *Style at Home* team



House tour of the week



Take a look inside this beautiful home – it's filled with gorgeous, quirky finds that make it stand out from the crowd. Be inspired by the way the picture frames have been displayed.

Five speedy craft projects



Have you got an old shelf collecting dust in the loft? Try out our funky upcycling projects, which all take less than two hours, and give your home an update on a budget.

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